8

Domestic Girlfriend

KEI SASUGA

DOME×GIRL

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8

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DOME
GIRL

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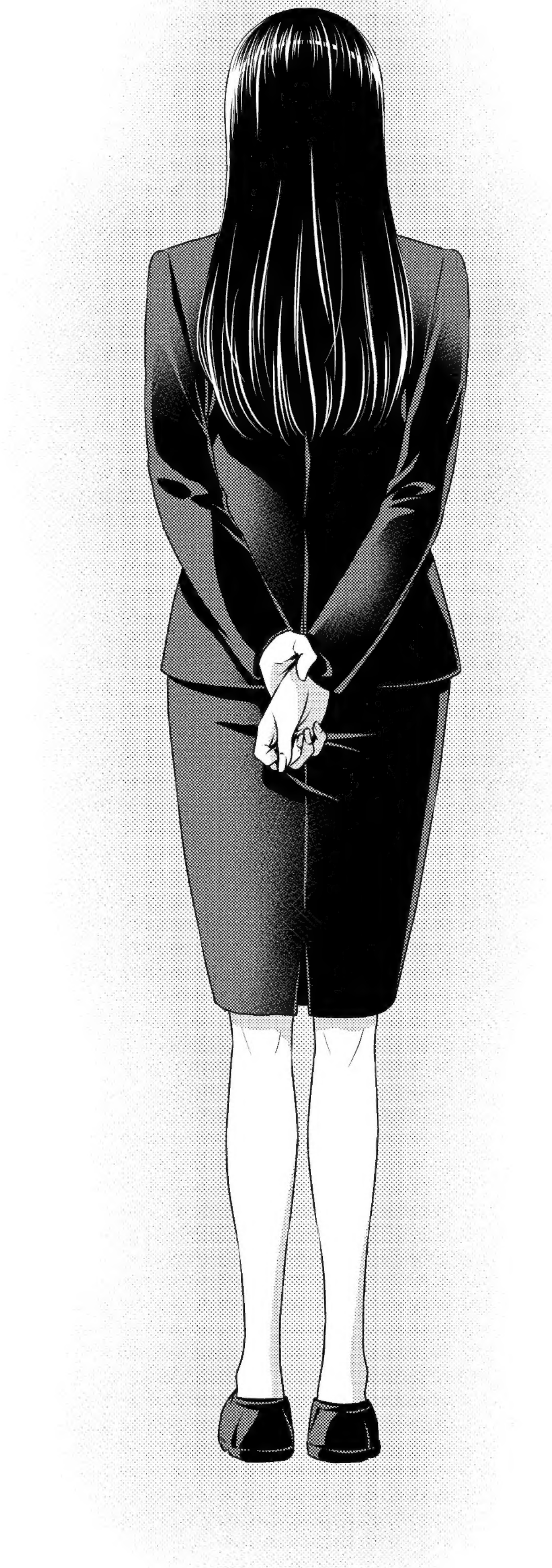
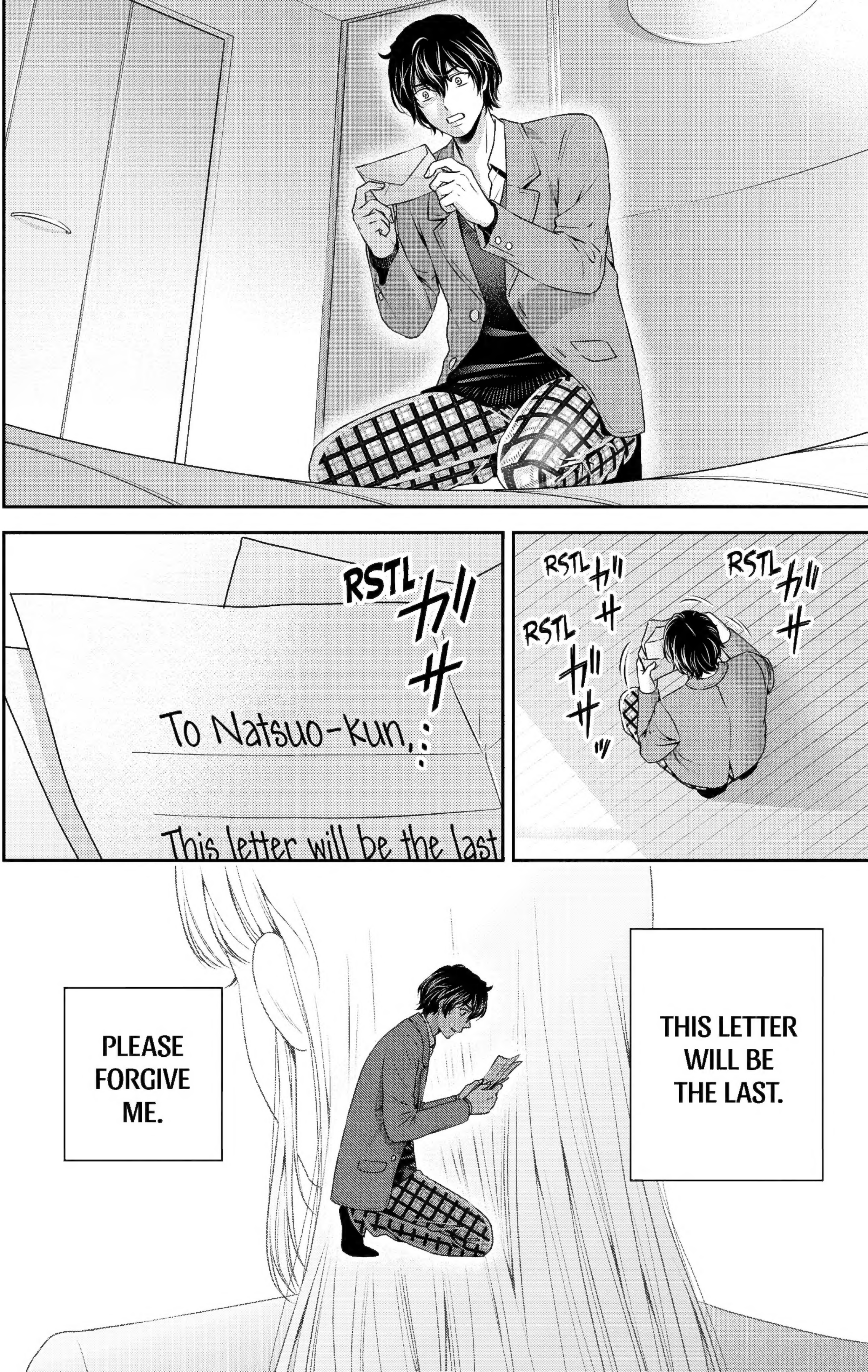
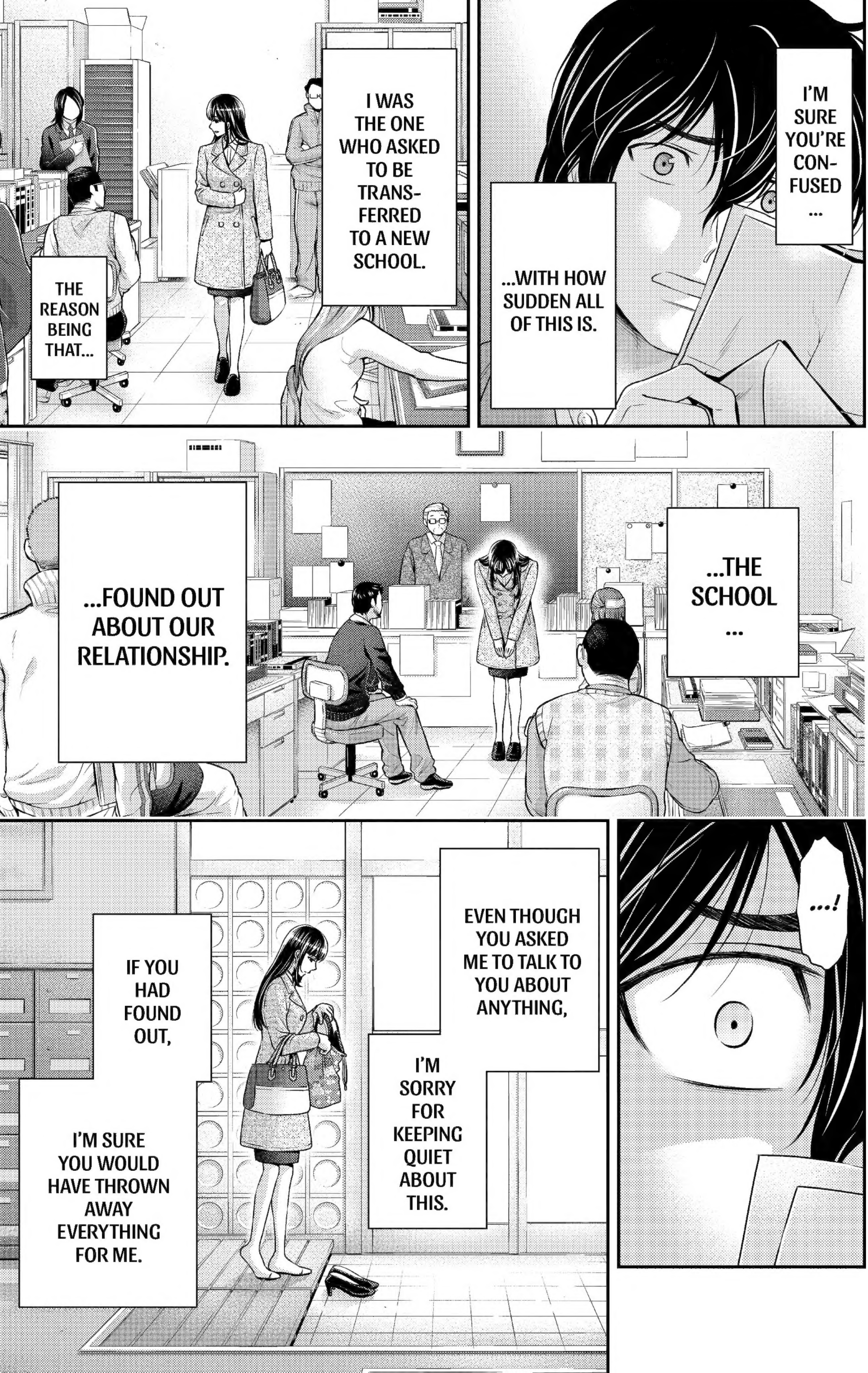
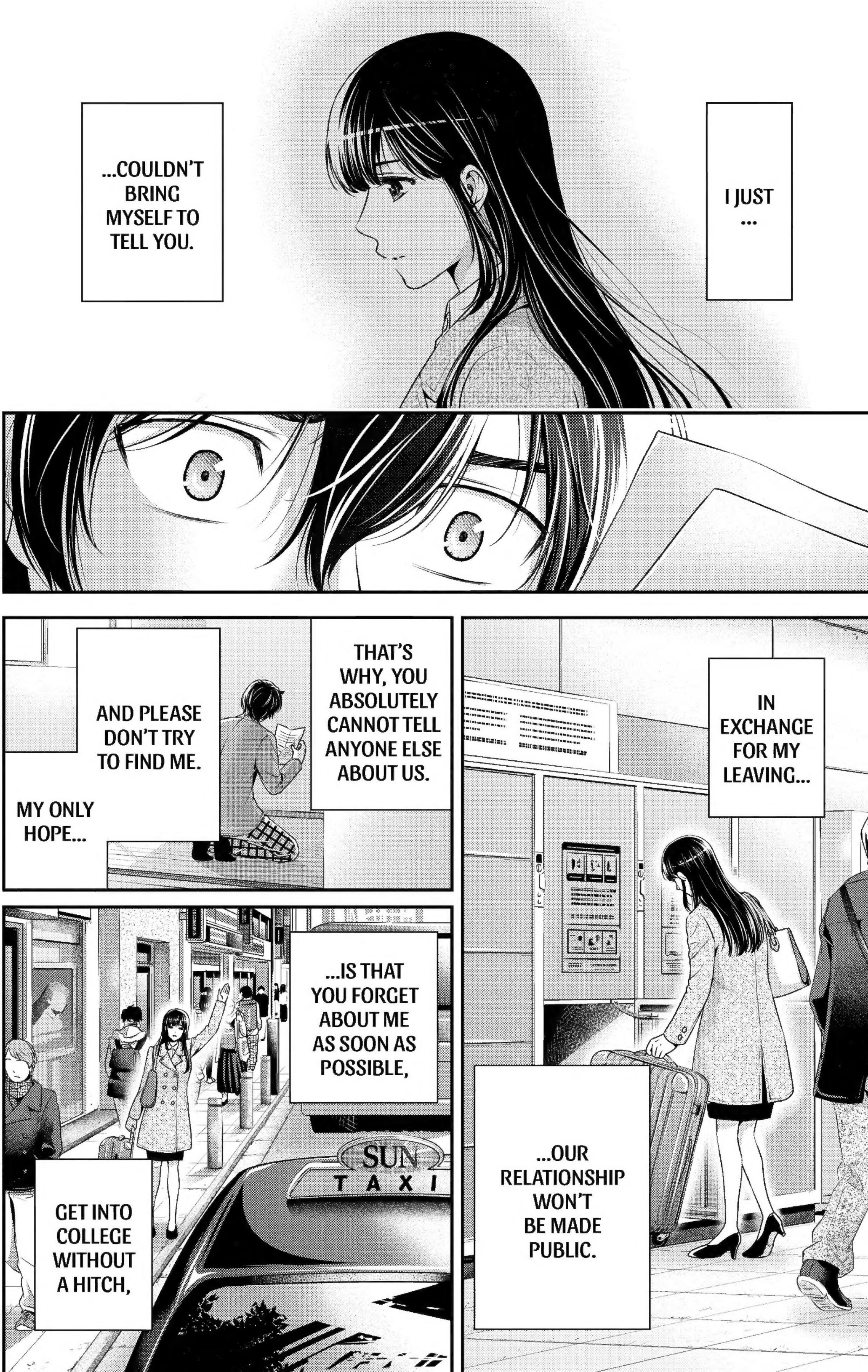
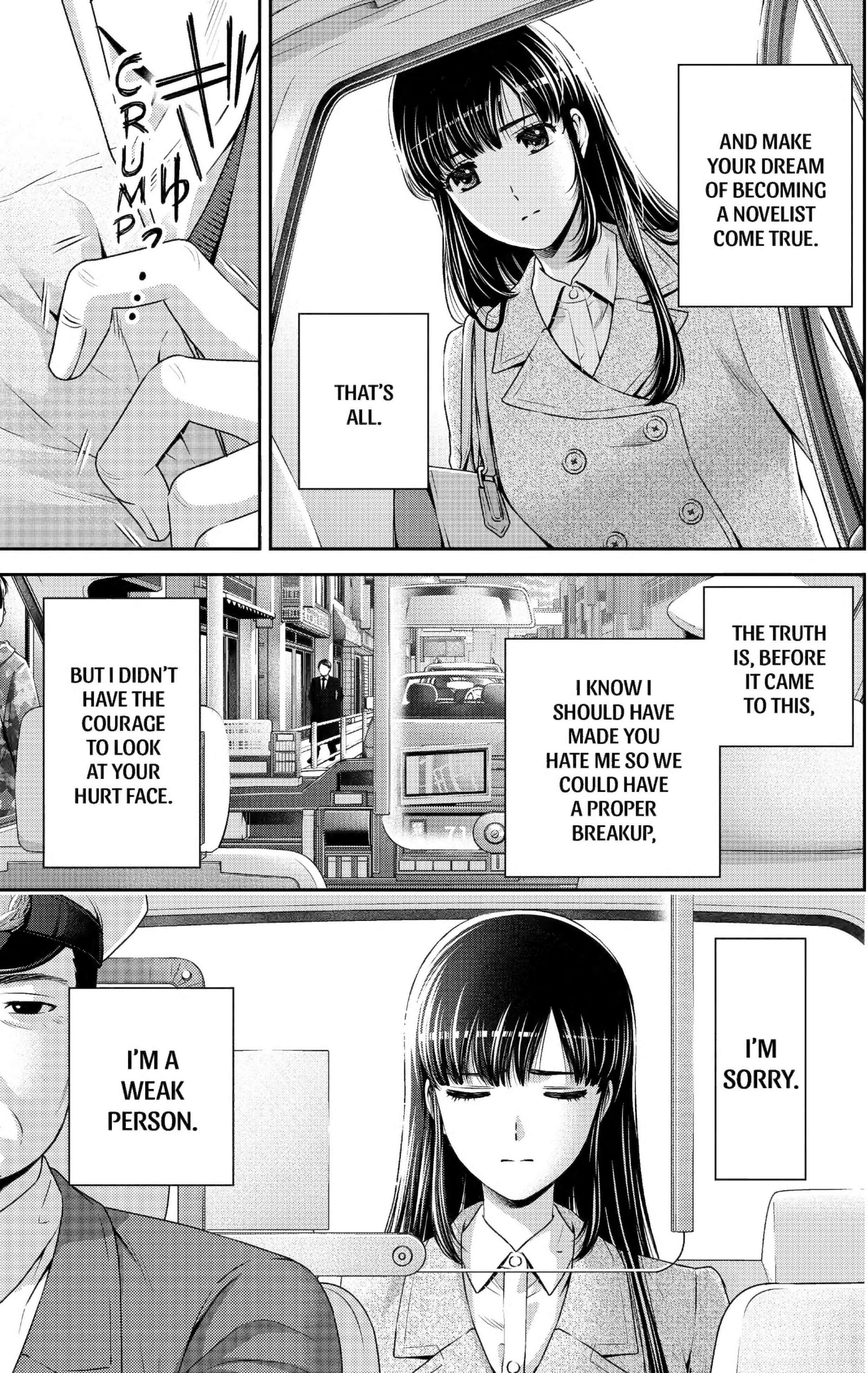
CHAPTER 65: BREAKUP

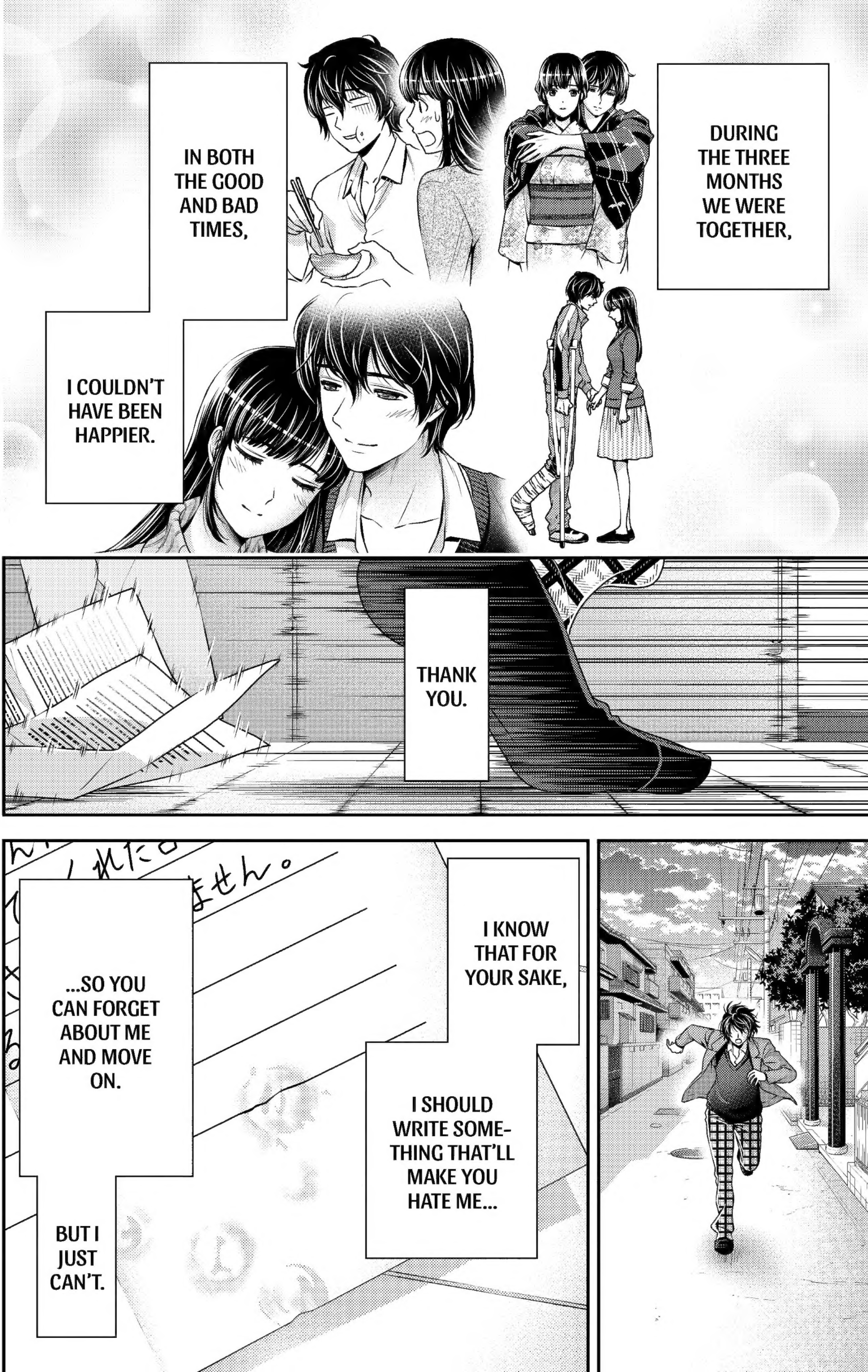


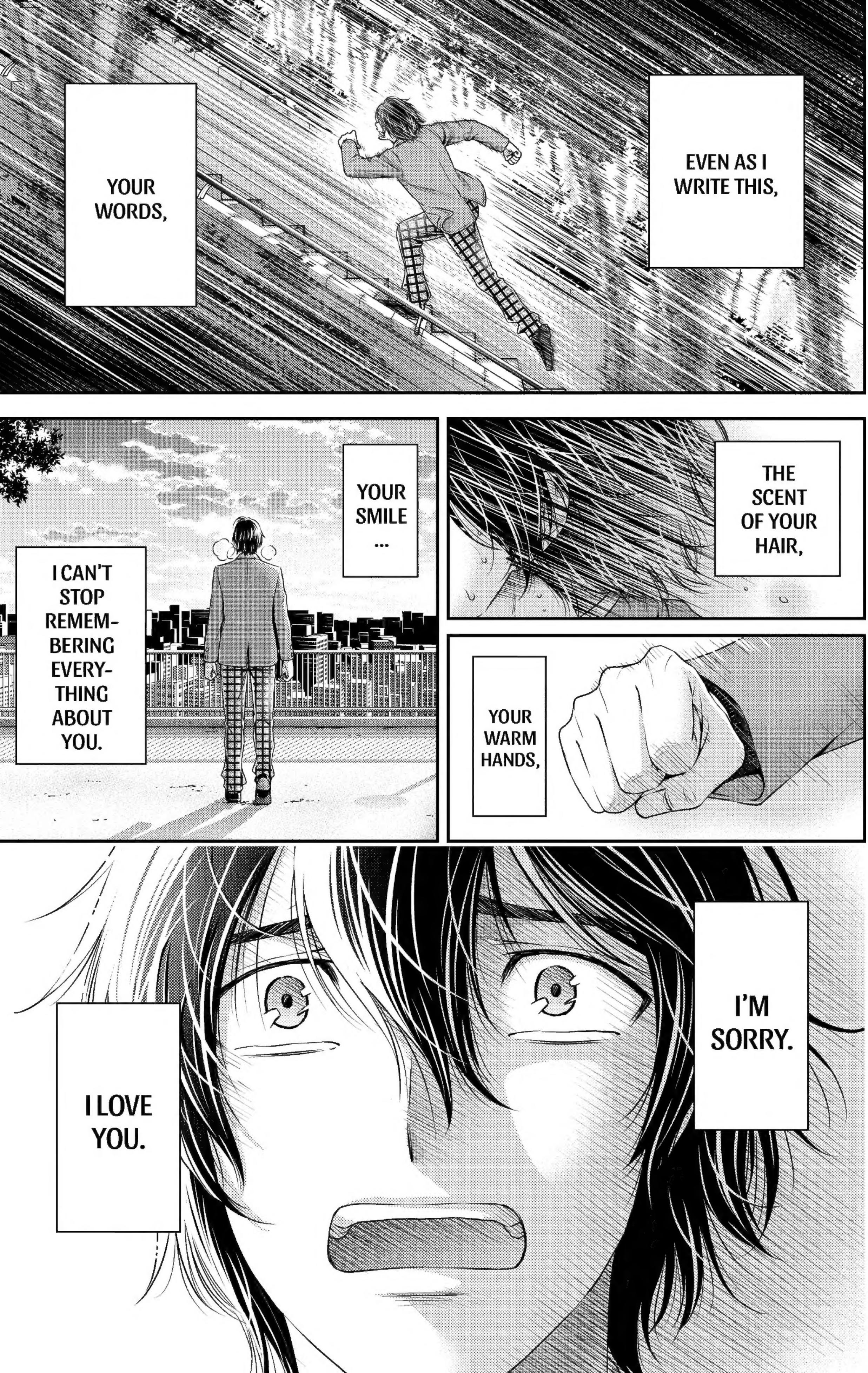

RSTL ガサ
RSTL ガサ
RSTL ガサッ
RSTL ガサ
To Natsuo-kun,
This letter will be the last
THIS LETTER WILL BE THE LAST.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

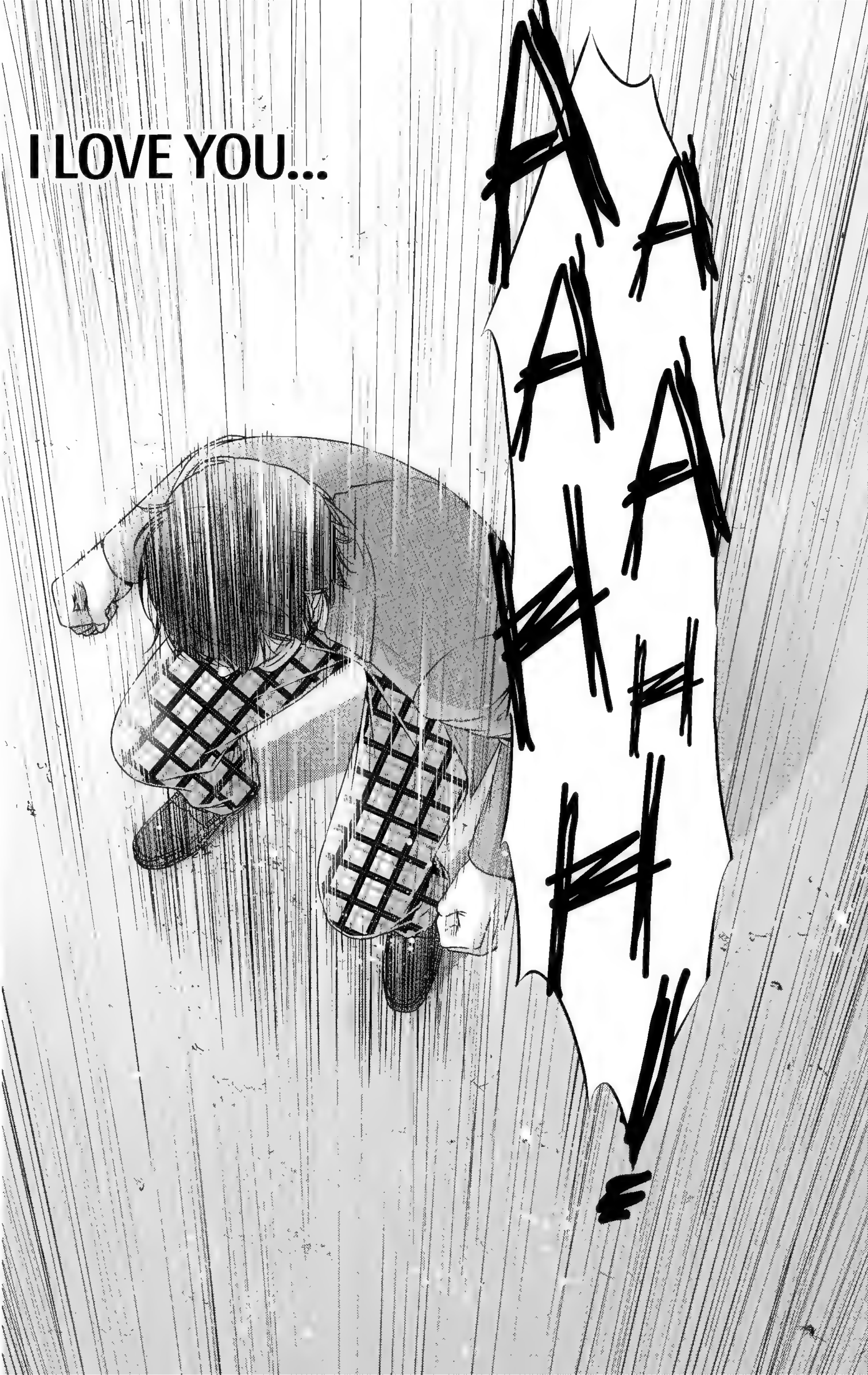

I'M SURE YOU'RE CONFUSED...
...WITH HOW SUDDEN ALL OF THIS IS.
I WAS THE ONE WHO ASKED TO BE TRANSFERRED TO A NEW SCHOOL.
THE REASON BEING THAT...
...THE SCHOOL...
...FOUND OUT ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP.
...!
EVEN THOUGH YOU ASKED ME TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT ANYTHING,
I'M SORRY FOR KEEPING QUIET ABOUT THIS.
IF YOU HAD FOUND OUT,
I'M SURE YOU WOULD HAVE THROWN AWAY EVERYTHING FOR ME.

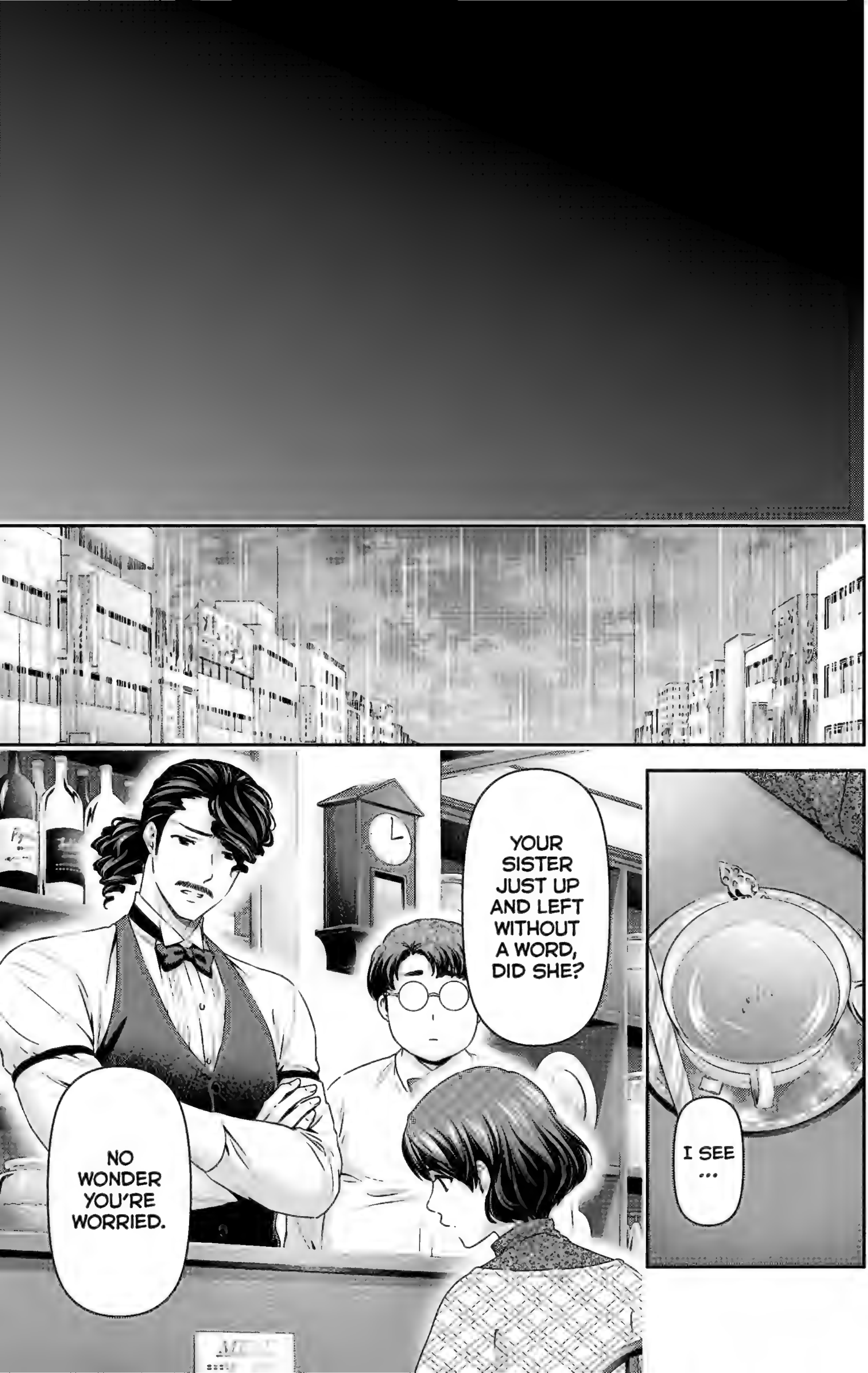

I JUST ...
...COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO TELL YOU.
IN EXCHANGE FOR MY LEAVING...
...OUR RELATIONSHIP WON'T BE MADE PUBLIC.
THAT'S WHY, YOU ABSOLUTELY CANNOT TELL ANYONE ELSE ABOUT US.
AND PLEASE DON'T TRY TO FIND ME.
MY ONLY HOPE...
...IS THAT YOU FORGET ABOUT ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,
GET INTO COLLEGE WITHOUT A HITCH,
SUN TAXI

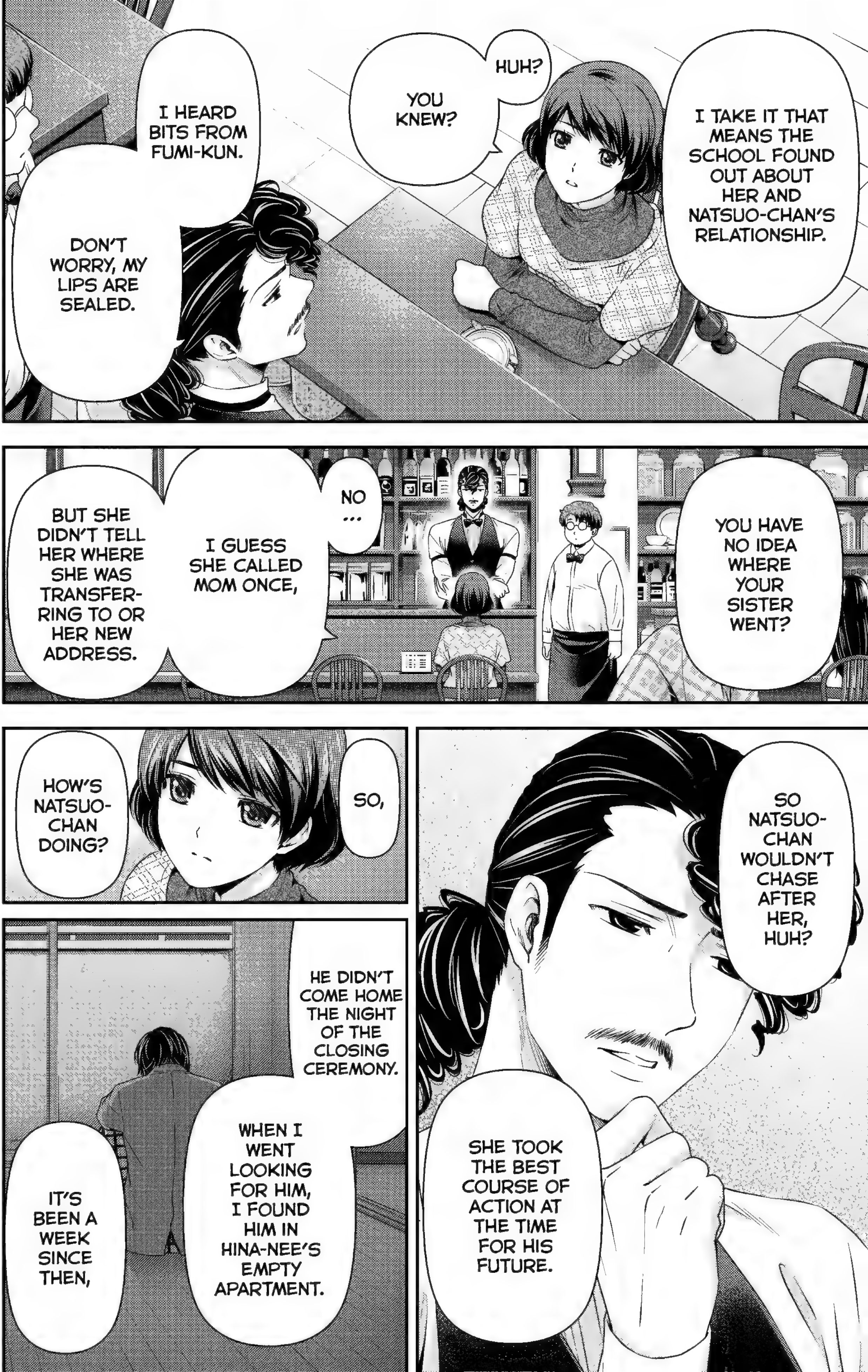

AND MAKE YOUR DREAM OF BECOMING A NOVELIST COME TRUE.
THAT'S ALL.
CRUMP
?
...
THE TRUTH IS, BEFORE IT CAME TO THIS,
I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE MADE YOU HATE ME SO WE COULD HAVE A PROPER BREAKUP,
BUT I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO LOOK AT YOUR HURT FACE.
I'M SORRY.
I'M A WEAK PERSON.

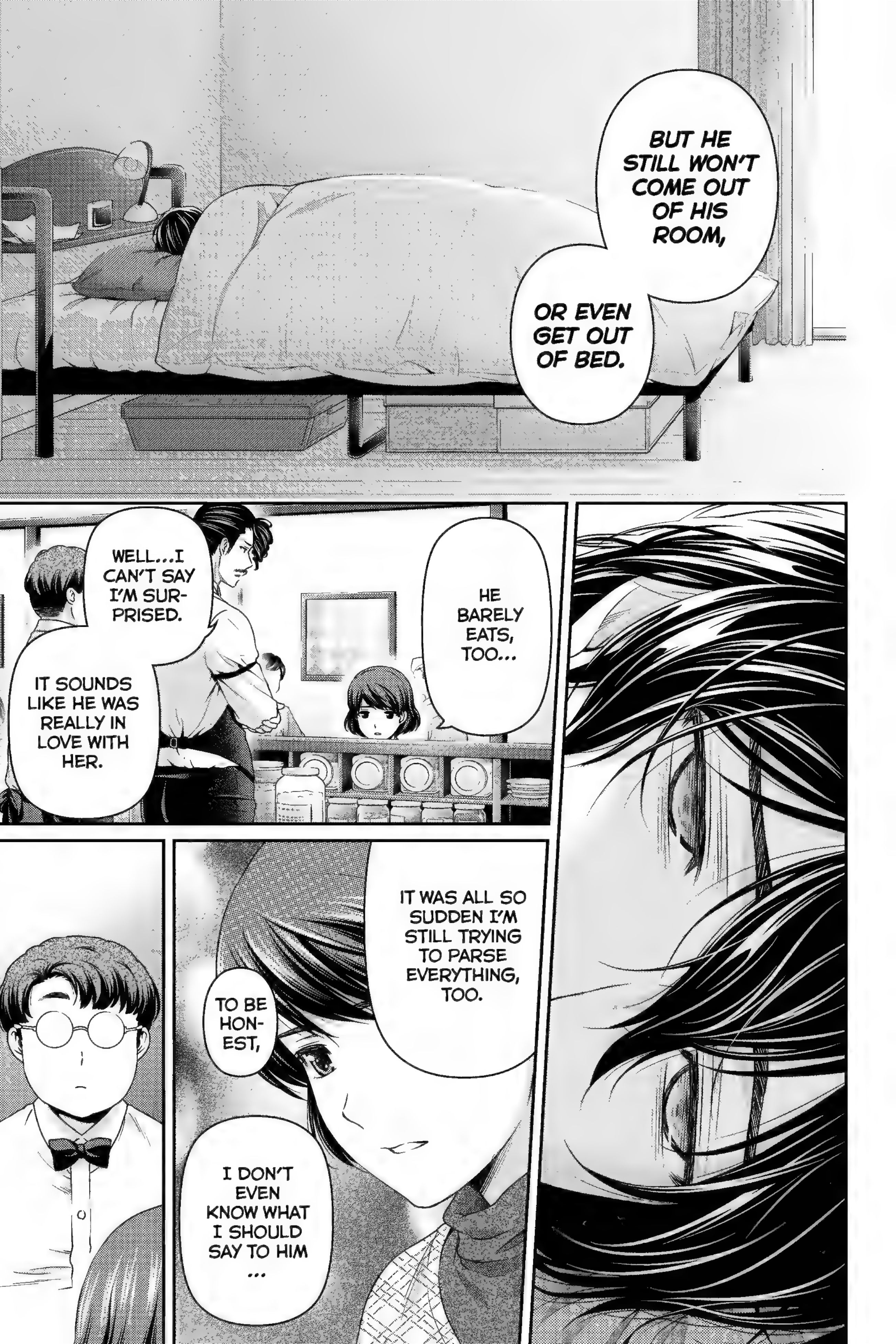

DURING THE THREE MONTHS WE WERE TOGETHER,
IN BOTH THE GOOD AND BAD TIMES,
I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HAPPIER.
THANK YOU.
I KNOW THAT FOR YOUR SAKE,
I SHOULD WRITE SOMETHING THAT'LL MAKE YOU HATE ME...
...SO YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT ME AND MOVE ON.
BUT I JUST CAN'T.
ません。

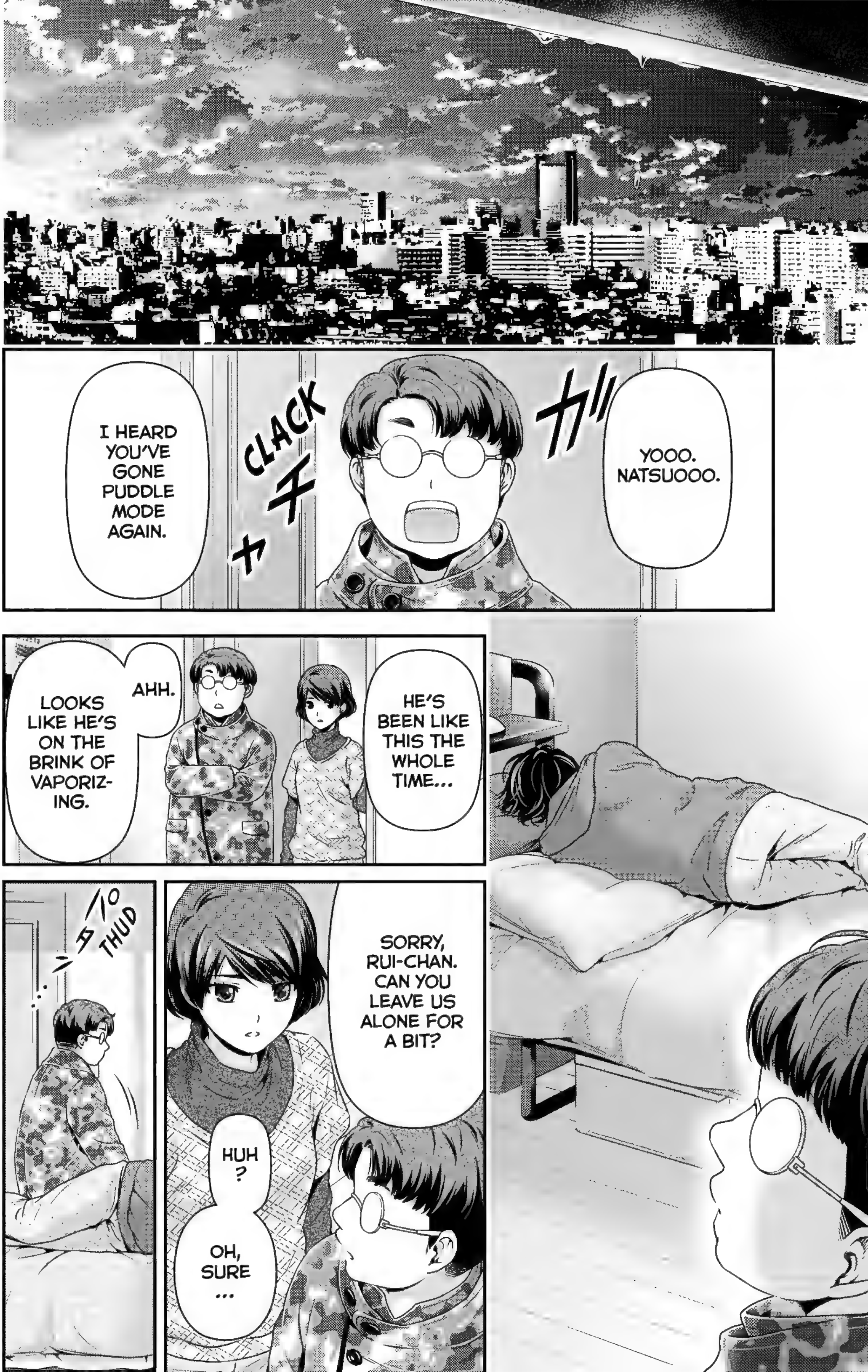

EVEN AS I WRITE THIS,
YOUR WORDS,
THE SCENT OF YOUR HAIR,
YOUR WARM HANDS,
YOUR SMILE …
I CAN'T STOP REMEMBERING EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.
I'M SORRY.
I LOVE YOU.

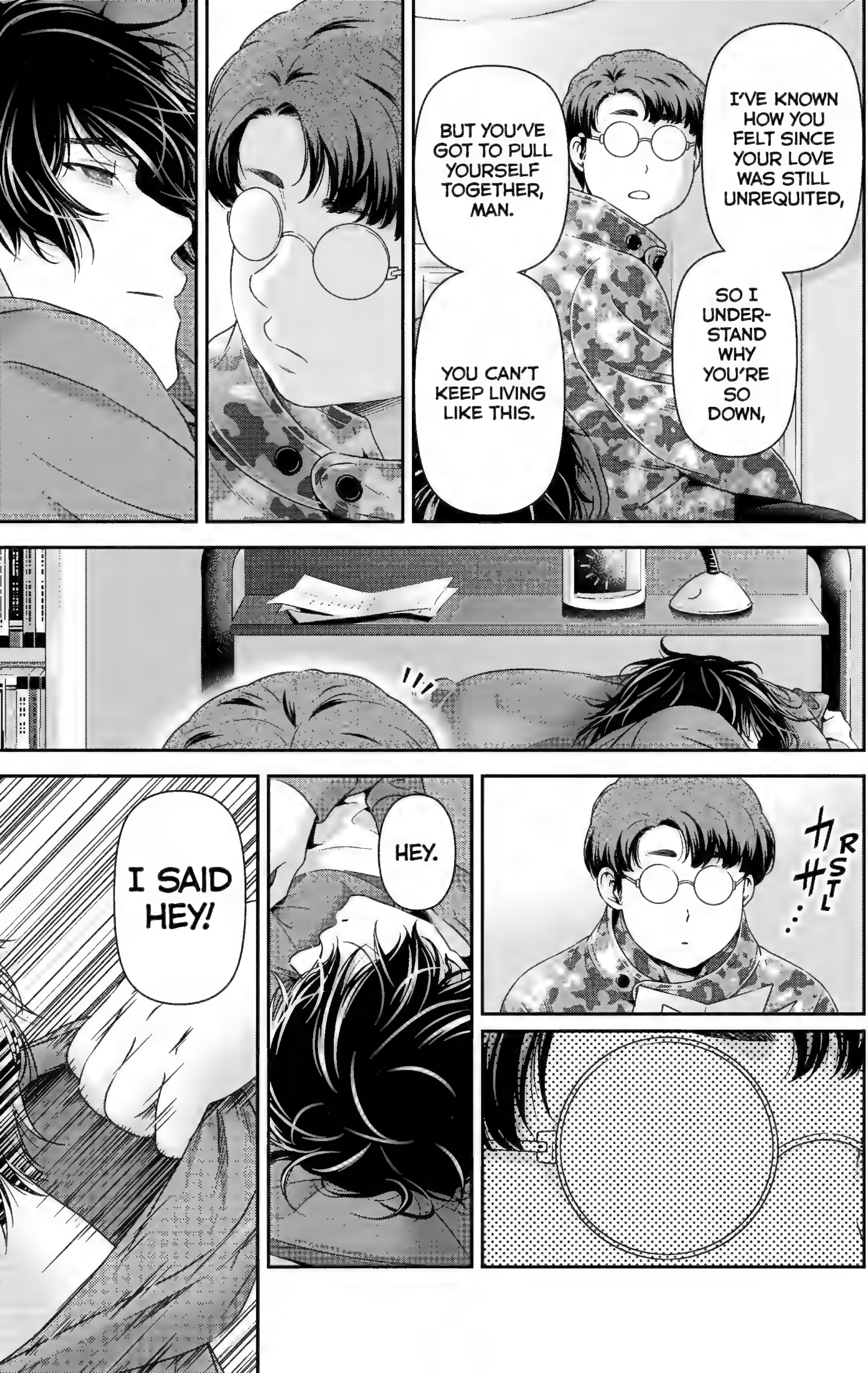

I LOVE YOU...
AAAAAHHHH!

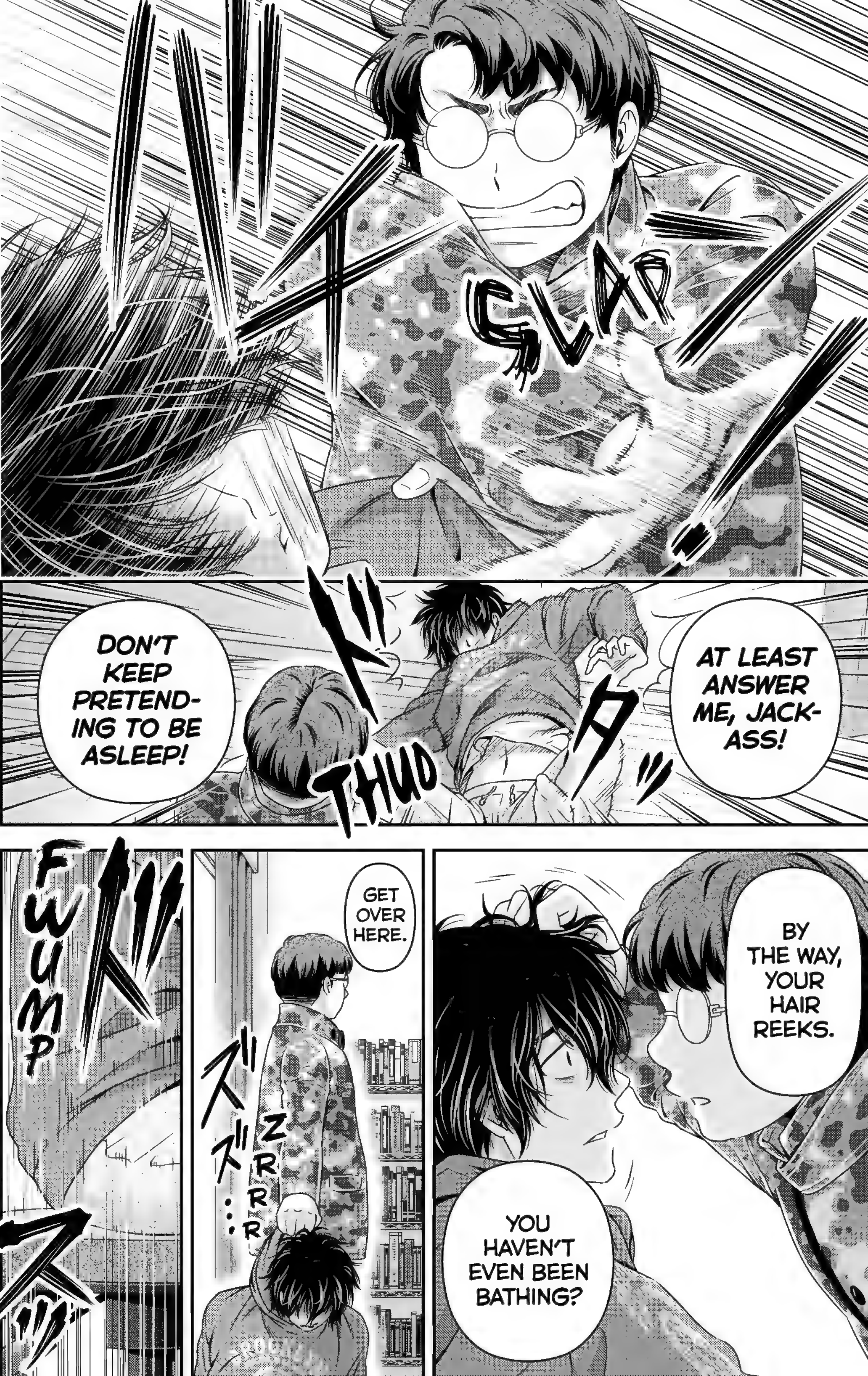

I SEE...
YOUR SISTER JUST UP AND LEFT WITHOUT A WORD, DID SHE?
NO WONDER YOU'RE WORRIED.

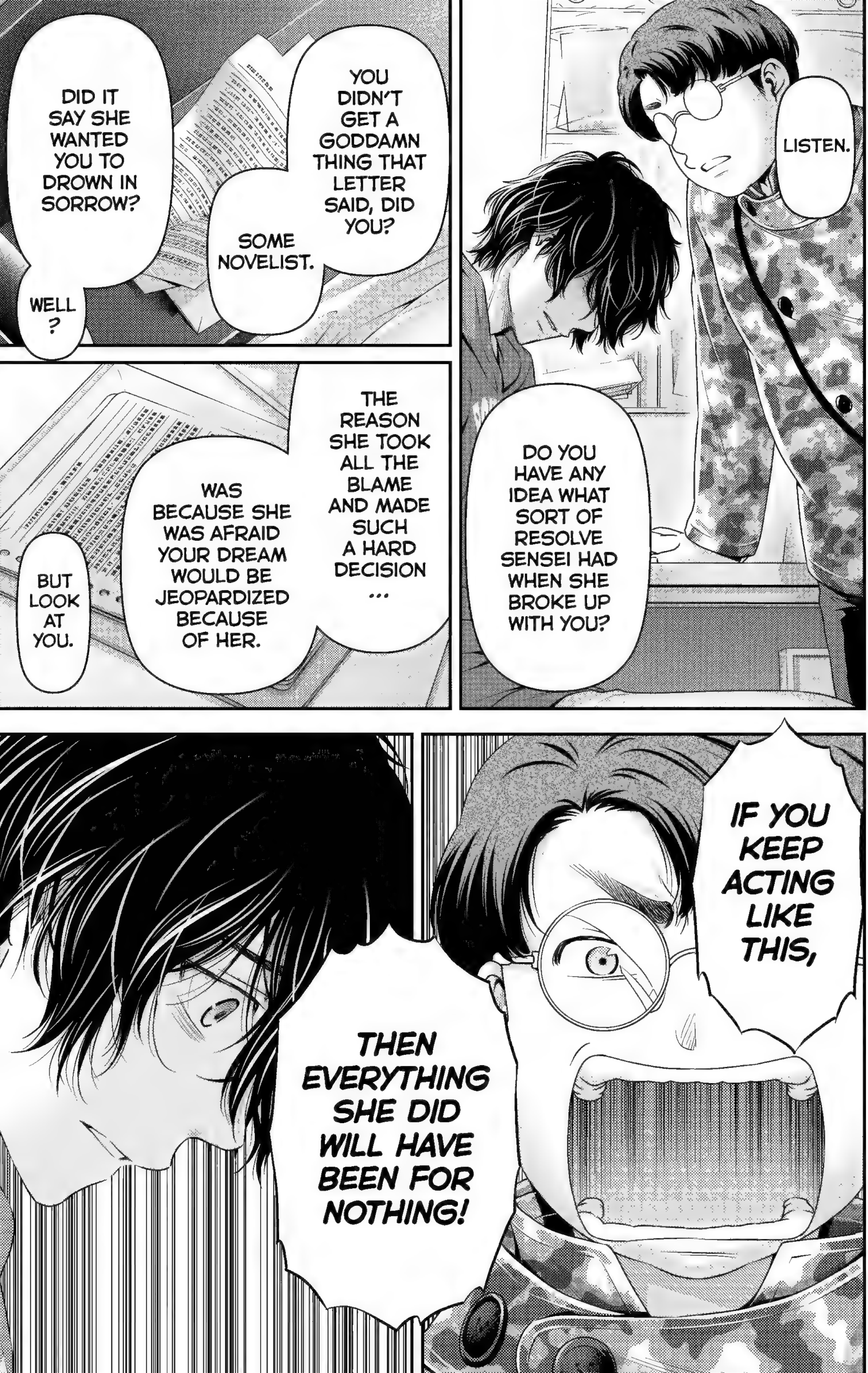

I TAKE IT THAT MEANS THE SCHOOL FOUND OUT ABOUT HER AND NATSUO-CHAN'S RELATIONSHIP.
HUH?
YOU KNEW?
I HEARD BITS FROM FUMI-KUN.
DON'T WORRY, MY LIPS ARE SEALED.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE YOUR SISTER WENT?
NO ...
I GUESS SHE CALLED MOM ONCE,
BUT SHE DIDN'T TELL HER WHERE SHE WAS TRANSFERRING TO OR HER NEW ADDRESS.
SO NATSUO-CHAN WOULDN'T CHASE AFTER HER, HUH?
SHE TOOK THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION AT THE TIME FOR HIS FUTURE.
SO,
HOW'S NATSUO-CHAN DOING?
HE DIDN'T COME HOME THE NIGHT OF THE CLOSING CEREMONY.
WHEN I WENT LOOKING FOR HIM, I FOUND HIM IN HINA-NEE'S EMPTY APARTMENT.
IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE THEN,

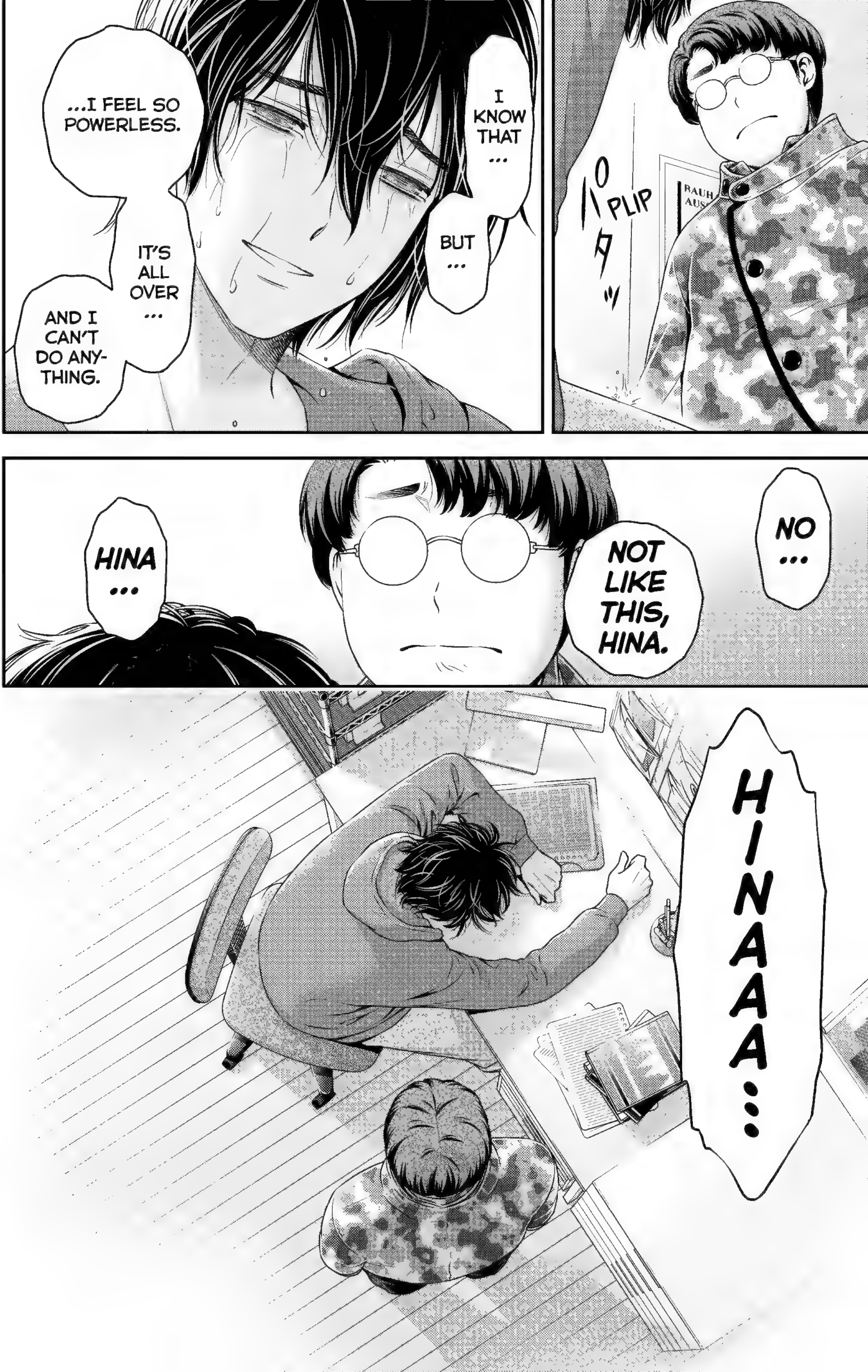

BUT HE STILL WON'T COME OUT OF HIS ROOM,
OR EVEN GET OUT OF BED.
HE BARELY EATS, TOO...
WELL...I CAN'T SAY I'M SURPRISED.
IT SOUNDS LIKE HE WAS REALLY IN LOVE WITH HER.
IT WAS ALL SO SUDDEN I'M STILL TRYING TO PARSE EVERYTHING, TOO.
TO BE HONEST,
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I SHOULD SAY TO HIM...

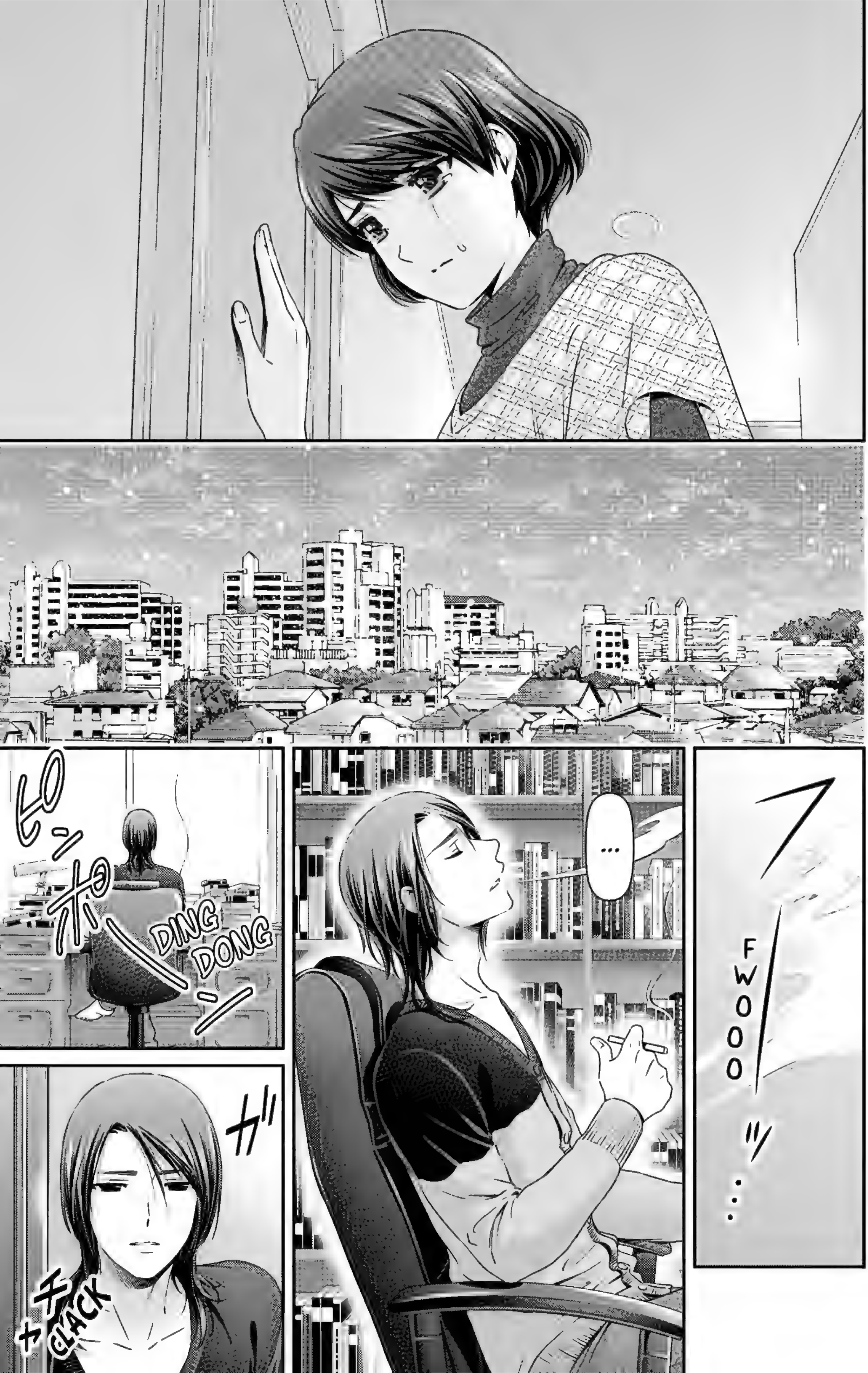

YOOO. NATSUOOO.
ガッ
CLACK
チャ
I HEARD YOU'VE GONE PUDDLE MODE AGAIN.
HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS THE WHOLE TIME...
AHH.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S ON THE BRINK OF VAPORIZING.
SORRY, RUI-CHAN. CAN YOU LEAVE US ALONE FOR A BIT?
HUH?
OH, SURE...
ドサッ
THUD

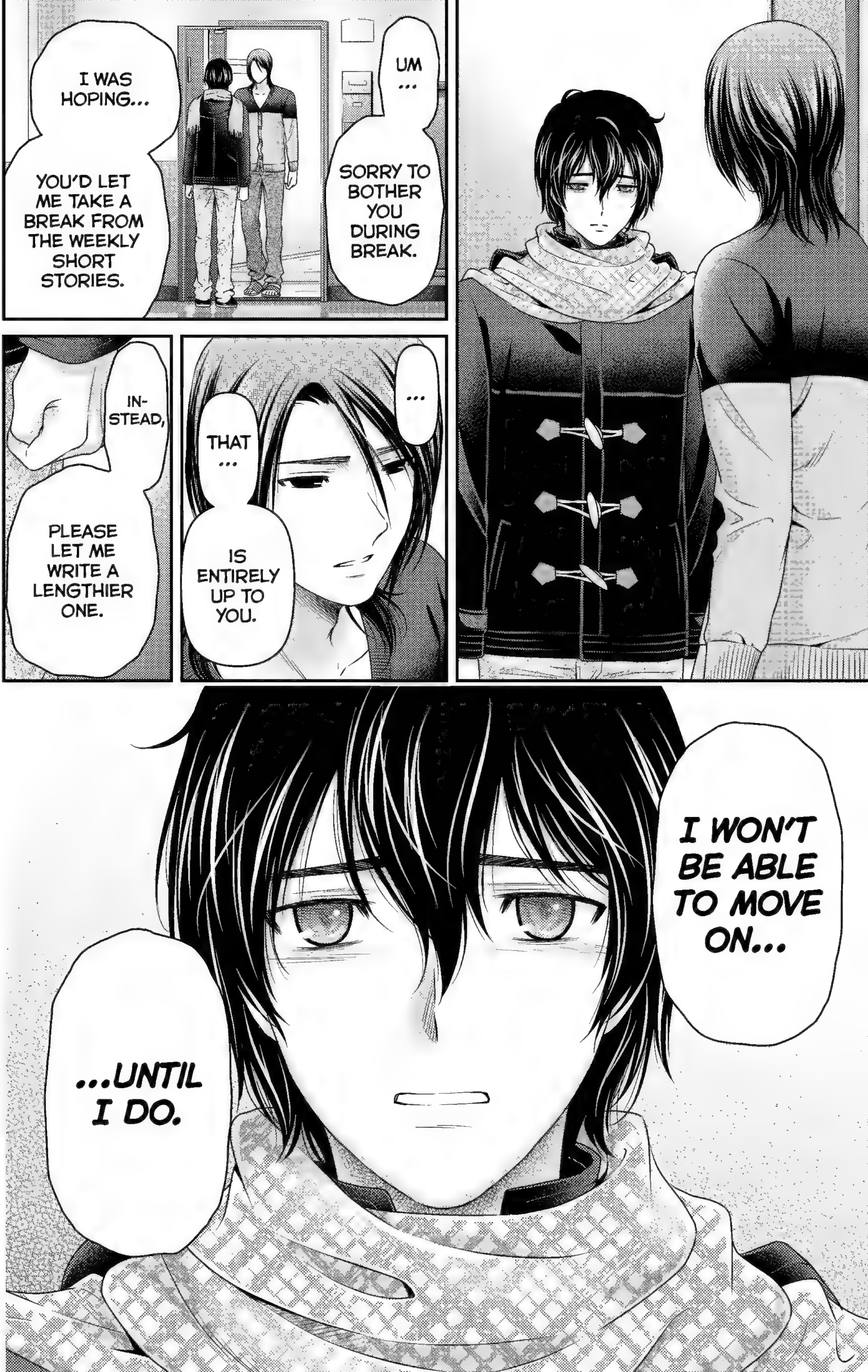

I'VE KNOWN HOW YOU FELT SINCE YOUR LOVE WAS STILL UNREQUITED,
SO I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE SO DOWN,
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, MAN.
YOU CAN'T KEEP LIVING LIKE THIS.
カサ
RSTL...
HEY.
I SAID HEY!


SLAP
AT LEAST ANSWER ME, JACKASS!
THUD
DON'T KEEP PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP!
BY THE WAY, YOUR HAIR REEKS.
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN BATHING?
GET OVER HERE.
ZRRR...
ズズ
FWUMP

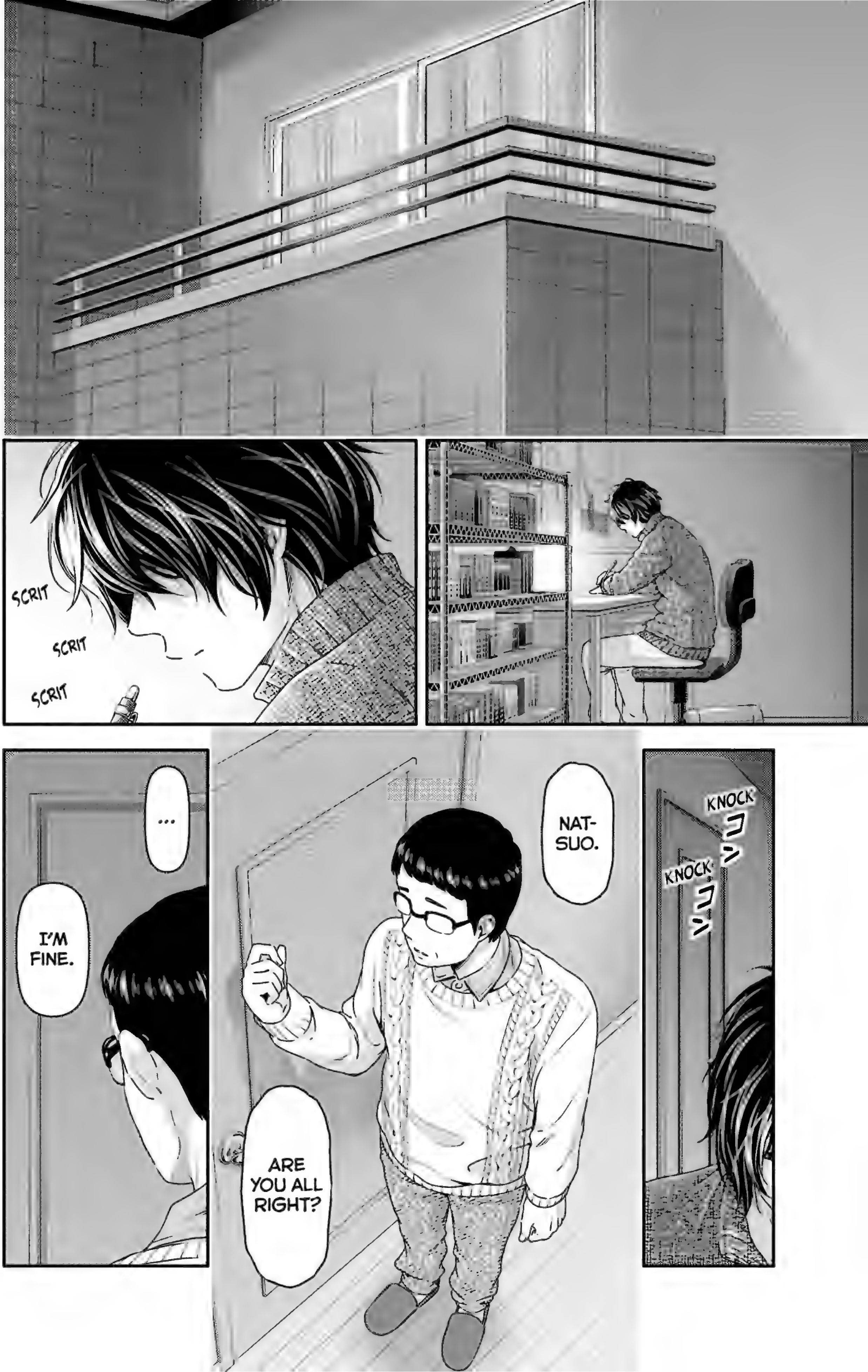

LISTEN.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT SORT OF RESOLVE SENSEI HAD WHEN SHE BROKE UP WITH YOU?
YOU DIDN'T GET A GODDAMN THING THAT LETTER SAID, DID YOU?
SOME NOVELIST.
DID IT SAY SHE WANTED YOU TO DROWN IN SORROW?
WELL?
THE REASON SHE TOOK ALL THE BLAME AND MADE SUCH A HARD DECISION...
WAS BECAUSE SHE WAS AFRAID YOUR DREAM WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED BECAUSE OF HER.
BUT LOOK AT YOU.
IF YOU KEEP ACTING LIKE THIS,
THEN EVERYTHING SHE DID WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING!

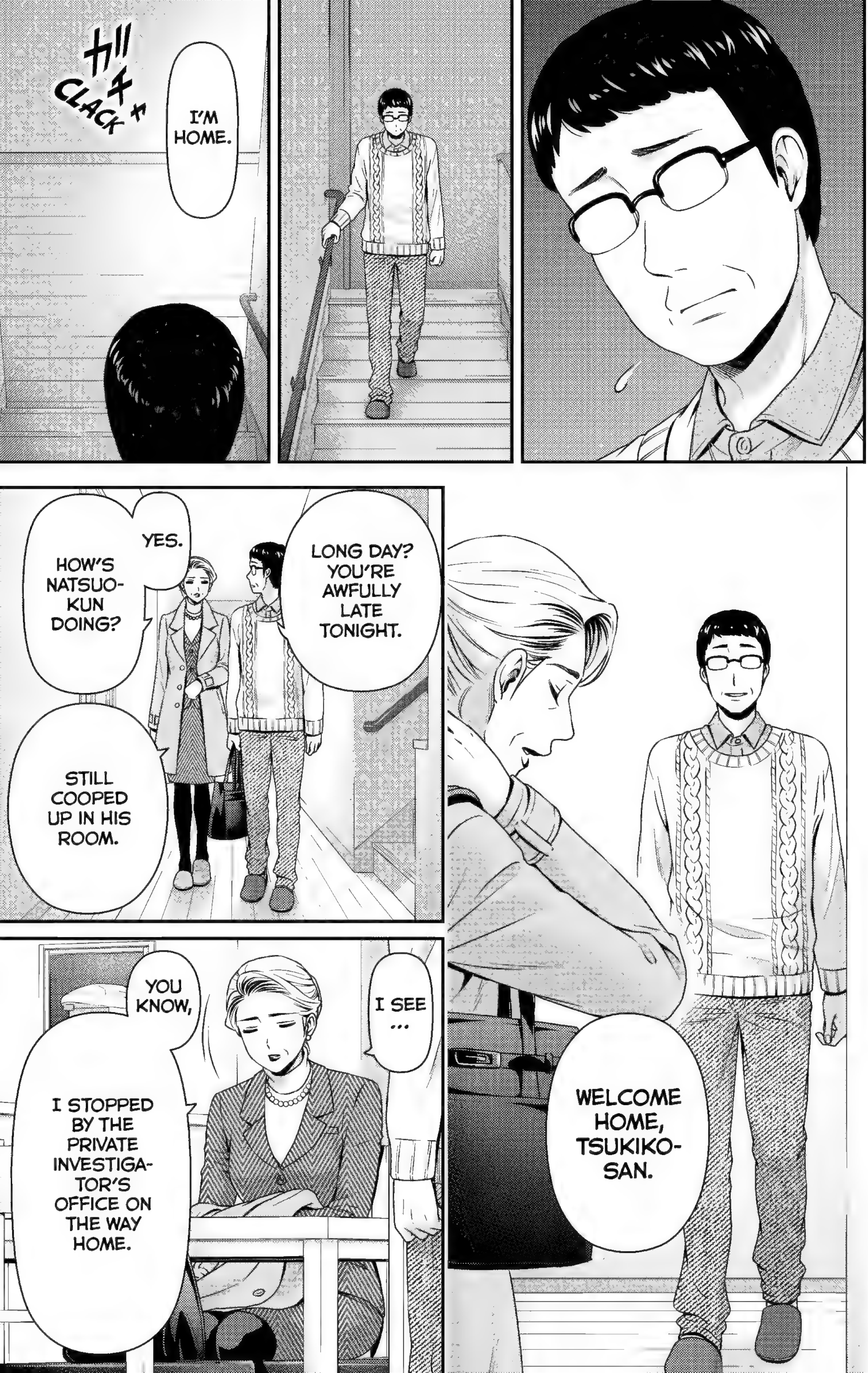

パタッ
PLIP
I KNOW THAT …
BUT …
IT'S ALL OVER …
AND I CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
…I FEEL SO POWERLESS.
NO …
NOT LIKE THIS, HINA.
HINA …
HINAAA…

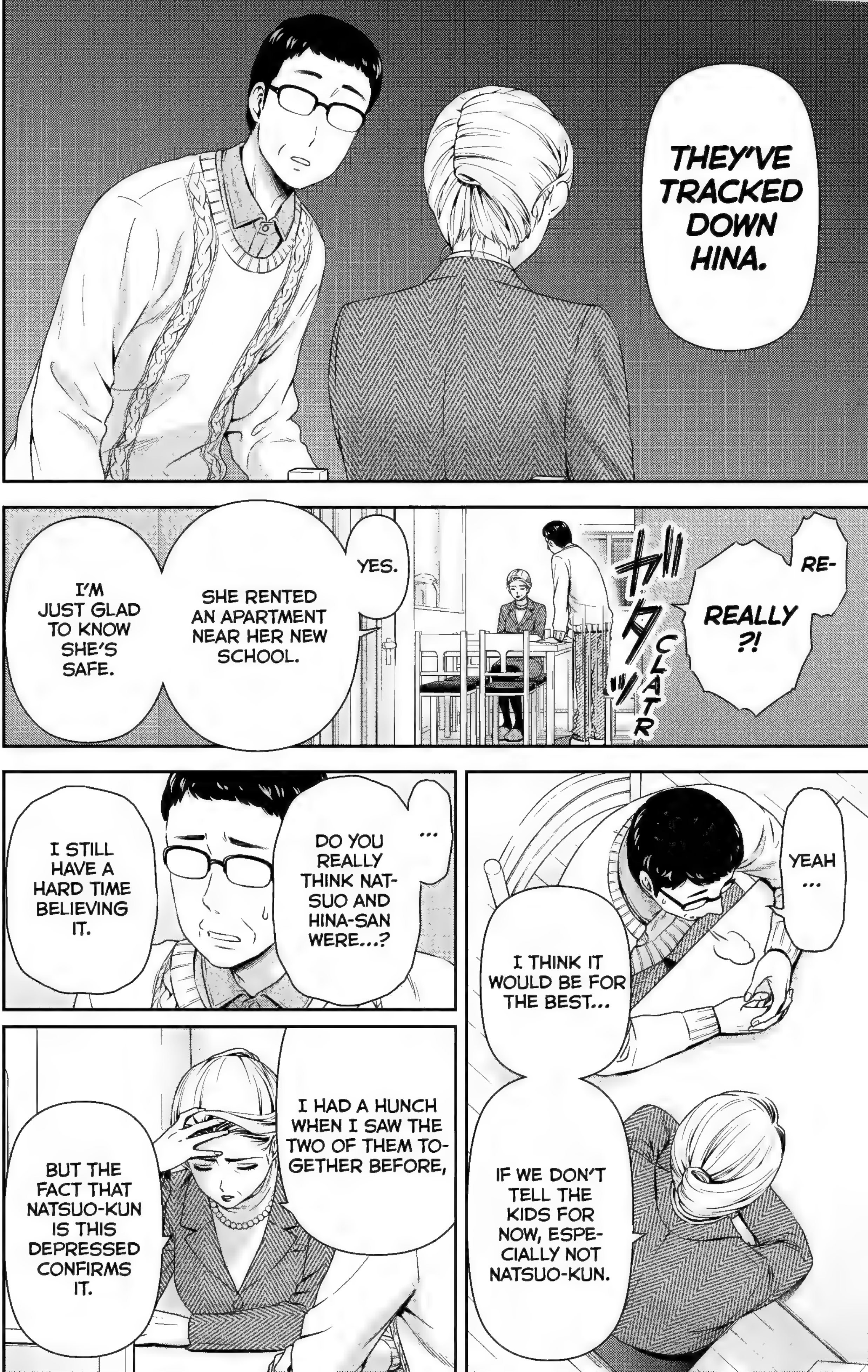

FWOOO
ツ
...
...
ピンポーン
DING DONG
ガチャ
CLACK

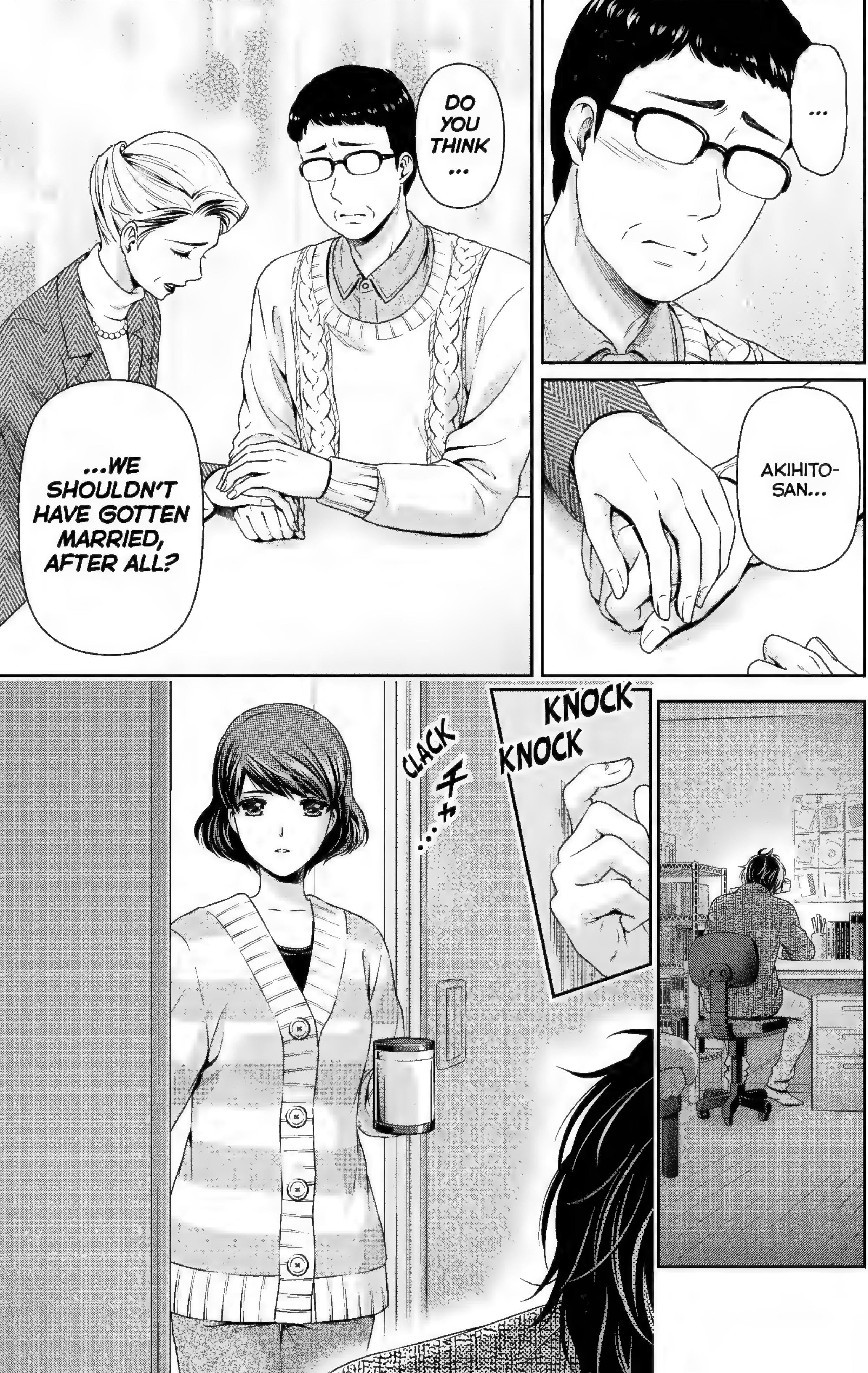

UM...
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU DURING BREAK.
I WAS HOPING...
YOU'D LET ME TAKE A BREAK FROM THE WEEKLY SHORT STORIES.
...
THAT...
IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU.
INSTEAD,
PLEASE LET ME WRITE A LENGTHIER ONE.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE ON...
...UNTIL I DO.

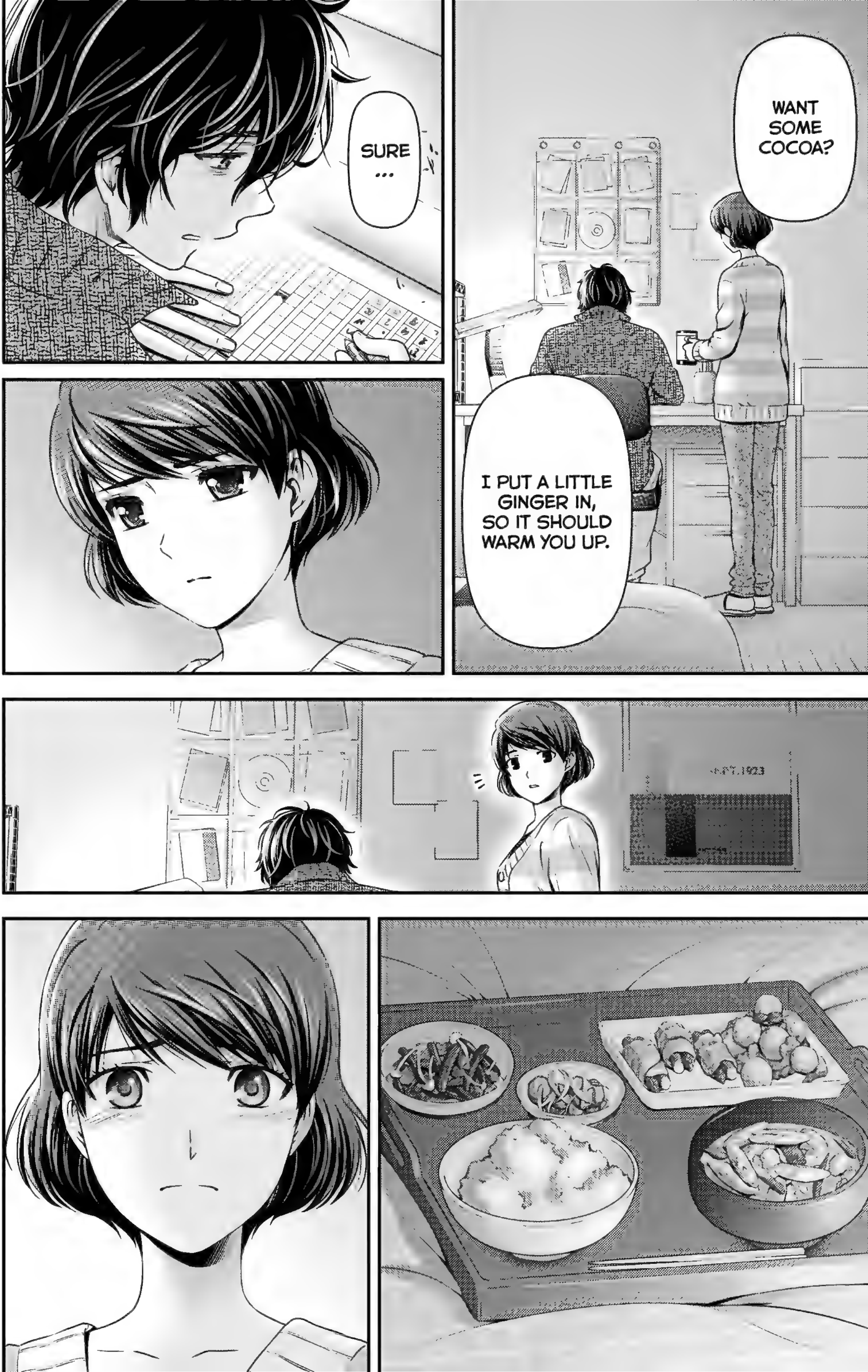
CHAPTER 66:
WRITHING

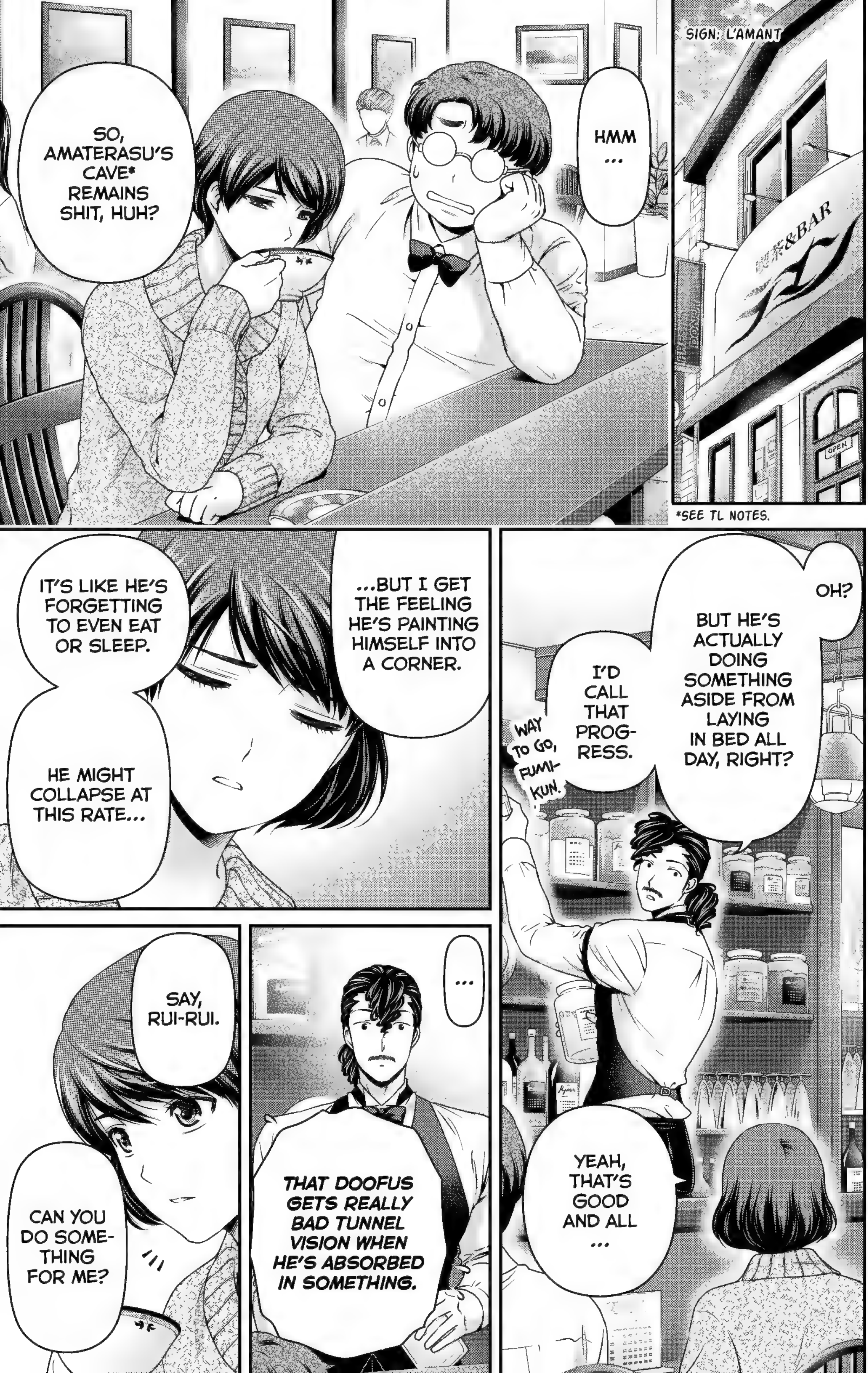

SCRIT
SCRIT
SCRIT
KNOCK
コン
KNOCK
コン
NAT-SUO.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
...
I'M FINE.


カチャ
CLACK
I'M HOME.
WELCOME HOME, TSUKIKO-SAN.
LONG DAY? YOU'RE AWFULLY LATE TONIGHT.
YES.
HOW'S NATSUO-KUN DOING?
STILL COOPED UP IN HIS ROOM.
I SEE...
YOU KNOW,
I STOPPED BY THE PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE ON THE WAY HOME.

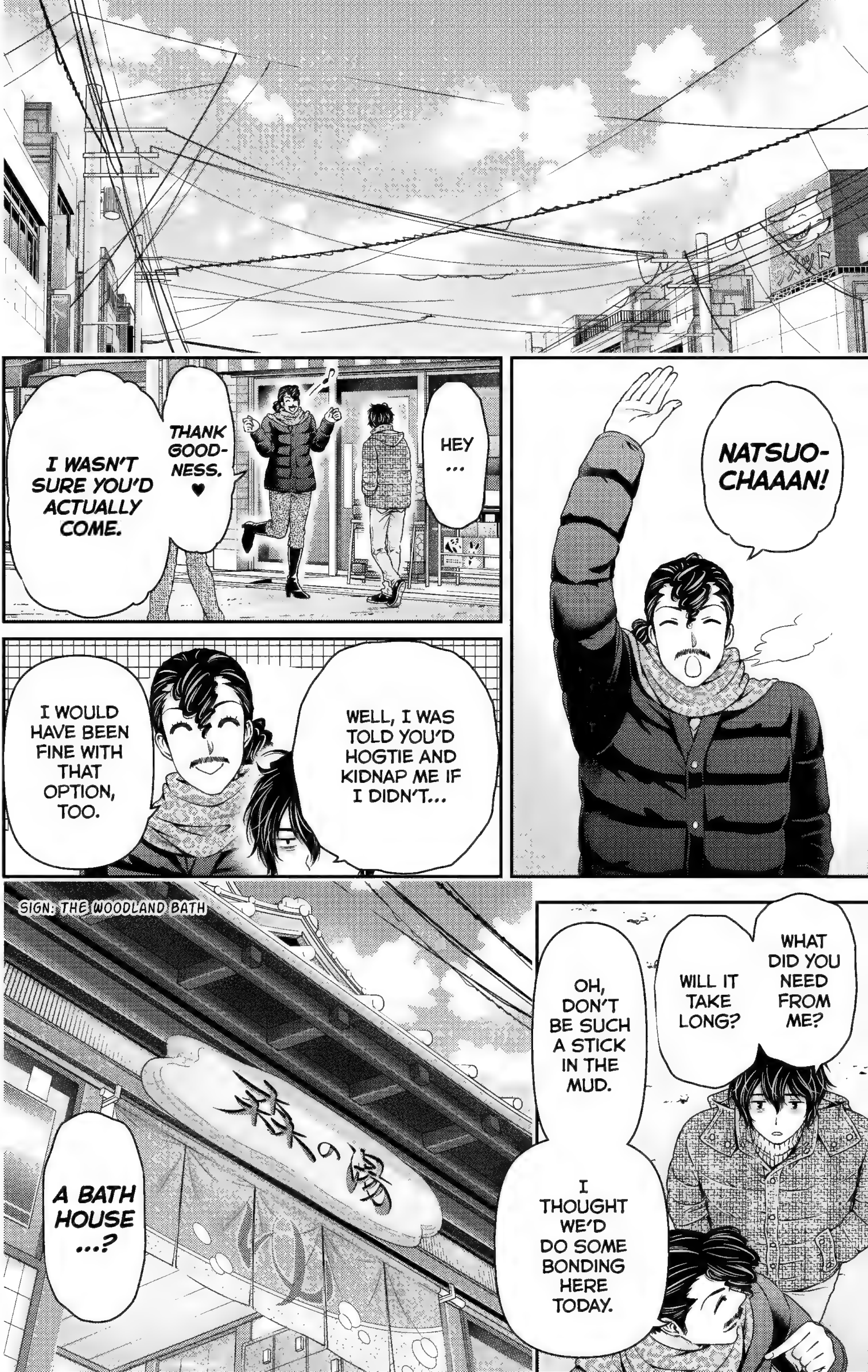

THEY'VE TRACKED DOWN HINA.
RE- REALLY ?!
ガタッ
CLATR
YES.
SHE RENTED AN APARTMENT NEAR HER NEW SCHOOL.
I'M JUST GLAD TO KNOW SHE'S SAFE.
...
DO YOU REALLY THINK NATSUO AND HINA-SAN WERE...?
I STILL HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING IT.
I HAD A HUNCH WHEN I SAW THE TWO OF THEM TOGETHER BEFORE,
BUT THE FACT THAT NATSUO-KUN IS THIS DEPRESSED CONFIRMS IT.
I THINK IT WOULD BE FOR THE BEST...
IF WE DON'T TELL THE KIDS FOR NOW, ESPECIALLY NOT NATSUO-KUN.
YEAH ...

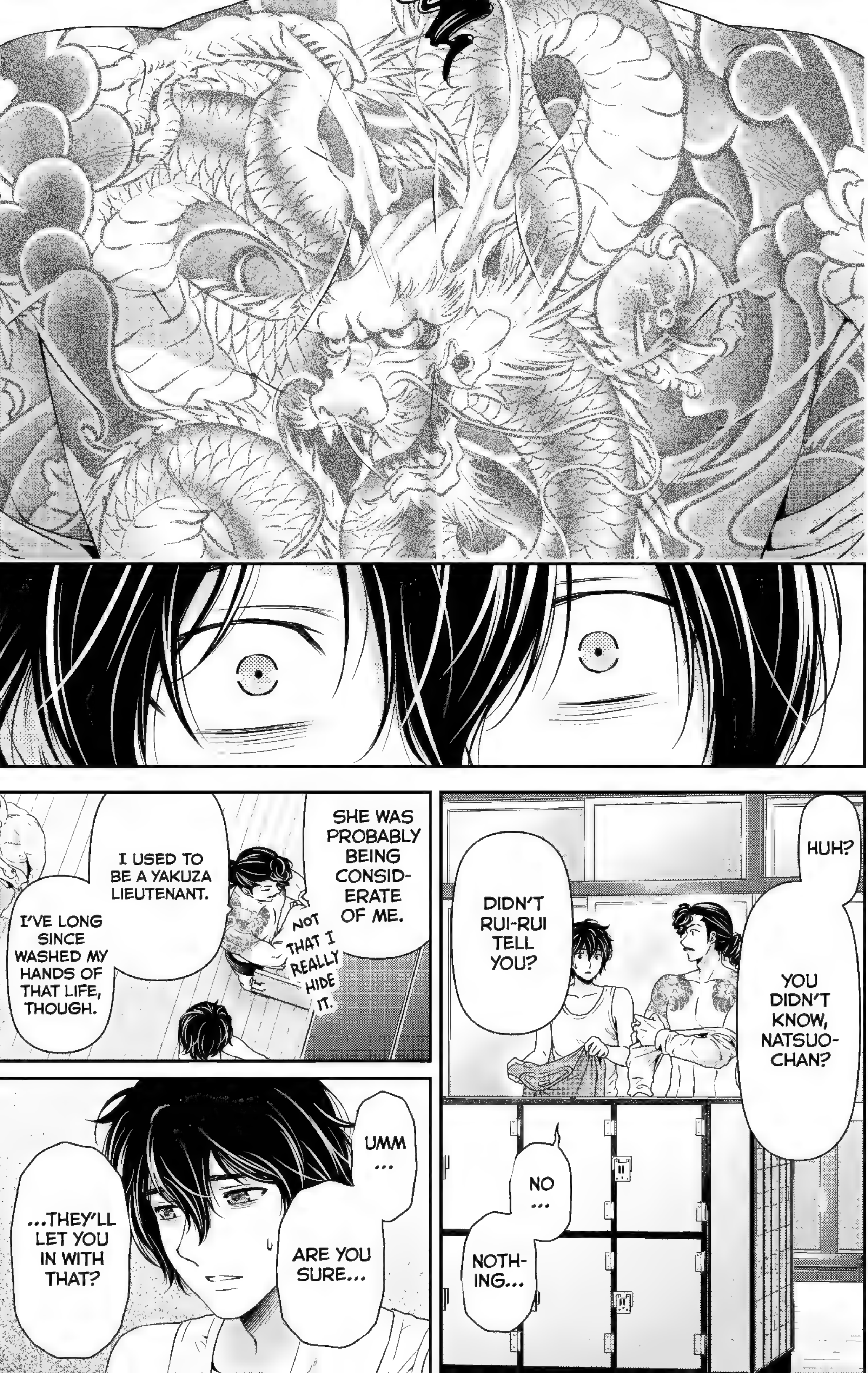

DO YOU THINK ...
...WE SHOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN MARRIED, AFTER ALL?
...
AKIHITO-SAN...
KNOCK KNOCK
CLACK
チャ...

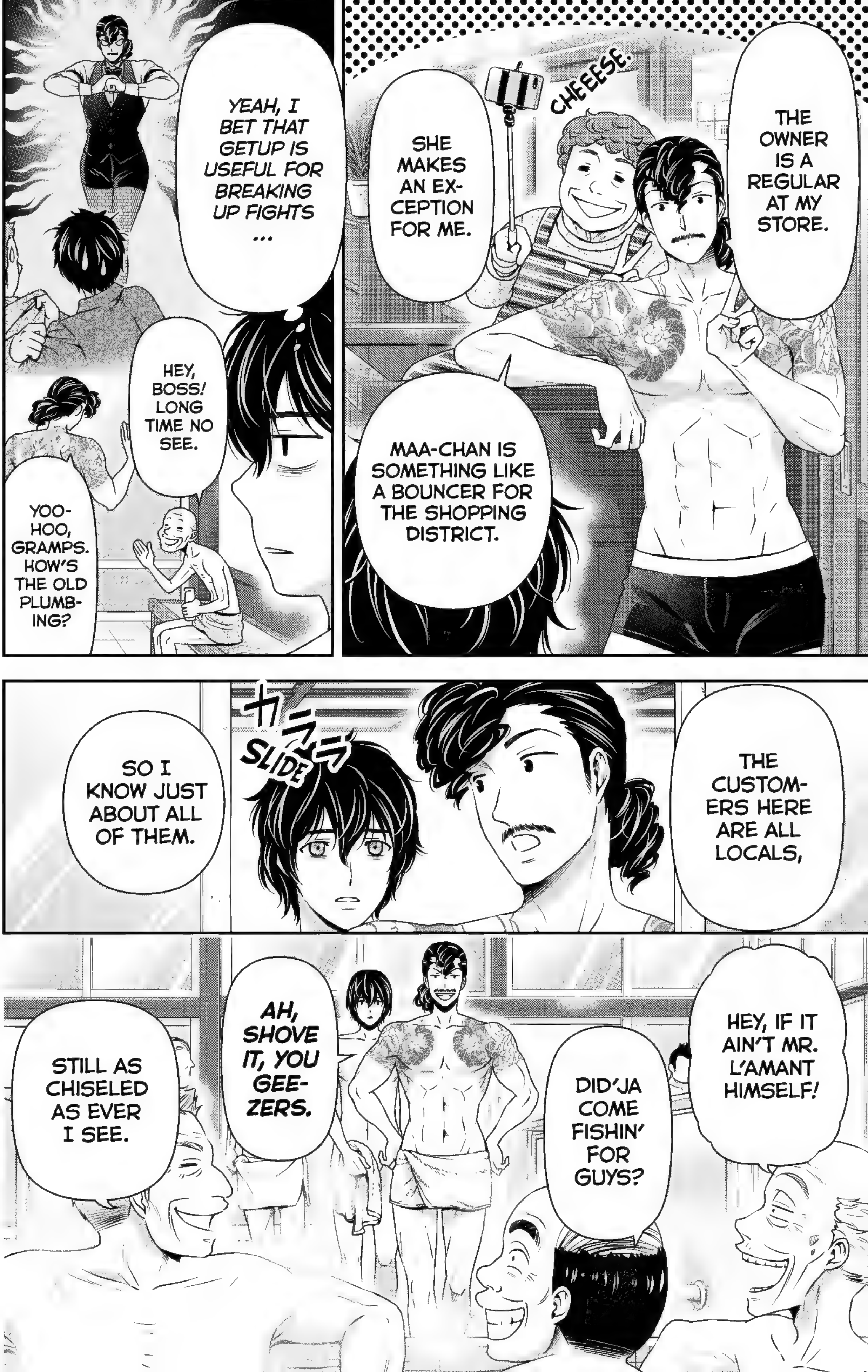

WANT SOME COCOA?
I PUT A LITTLE GINGER IN, SO IT SHOULD WARM YOU UP.
SURE ...

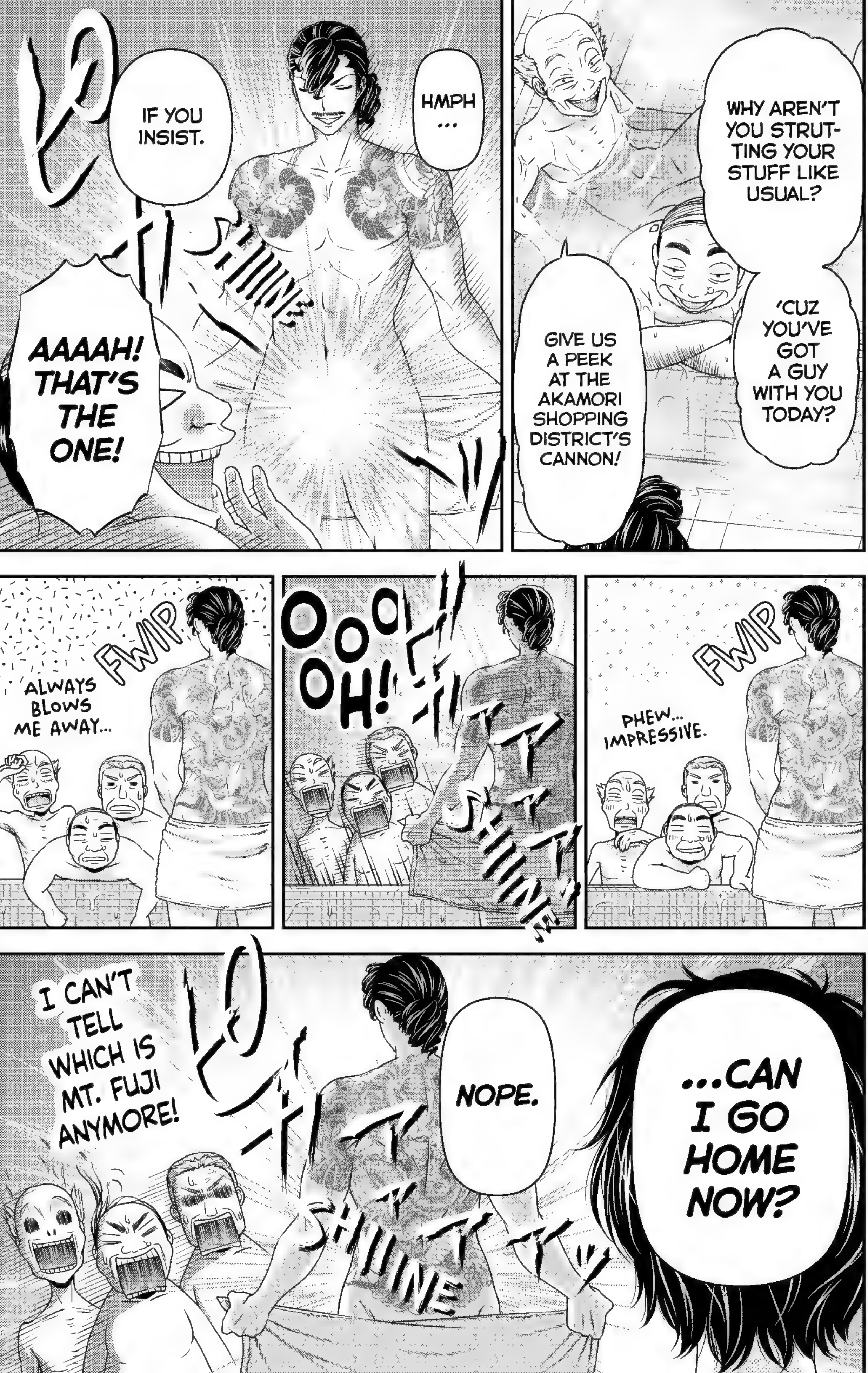

SIGN: L'AMANT
喫茶&BAR
OPEN
HMM...
SO, AMATERASU'S CAVE* REMAINS SHIT, HUH?
OH?
BUT HE'S ACTUALLY DOING SOMETHING ASIDE FROM LAYING IN BED ALL DAY, RIGHT?
I'D CALL THAT PROGRESS.
WAY TO GO, FUMI-KUN.
...BUT I GET THE FEELING HE'S PAINTING HIMSELF INTO A CORNER.
IT'S LIKE HE'S FORGETTING TO EVEN EAT OR SLEEP.
HE MIGHT COLLAPSE AT THIS RATE...
YEAH, THAT'S GOOD AND ALL...
...
THAT DOOFUS GETS REALLY BAD TUNNEL VISION WHEN HE'S ABSORBED IN SOMETHING.
SAY, RUI-RUI.
CAN YOU DO SOMETHING FOR ME?

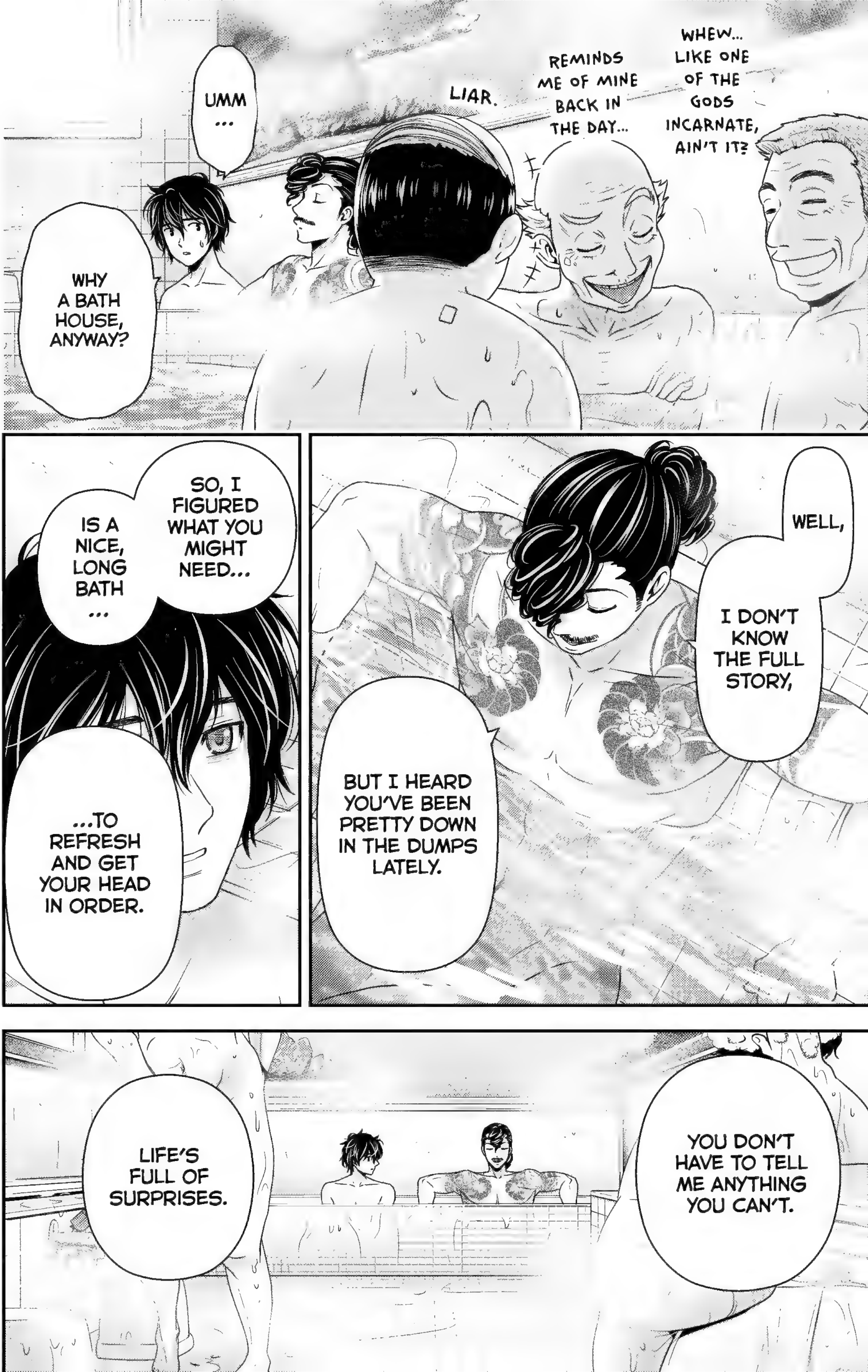
*SEE TL NOTES.

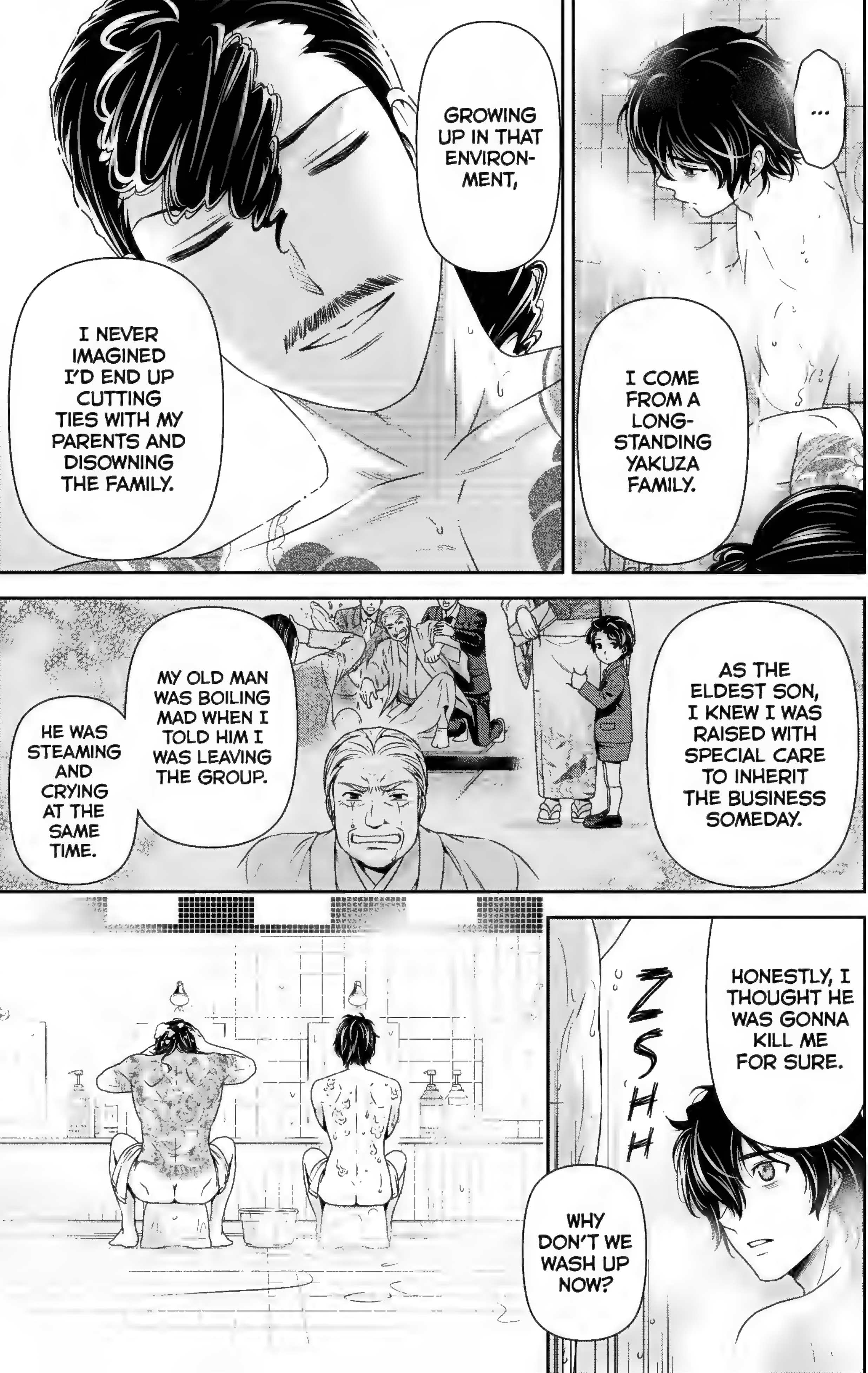

NATSUO-CHAAAN!
HEY...
THANK GOODNESS. ♥
I WASN'T SURE YOU'D ACTUALLY COME.
WELL, I WAS TOLD YOU'D HOGTIE AND KIDNAP ME IF I DIDN'T...
I WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE WITH THAT OPTION, TOO.
WHAT DID YOU NEED FROM ME?
WILL IT TAKE LONG?
OH, DON'T BE SUCH A STICK IN THE MUD.
I THOUGHT WE'D DO SOME BONDING HERE TODAY.
SIGN: THE WOODLAND BATH
A BATH HOUSE...?

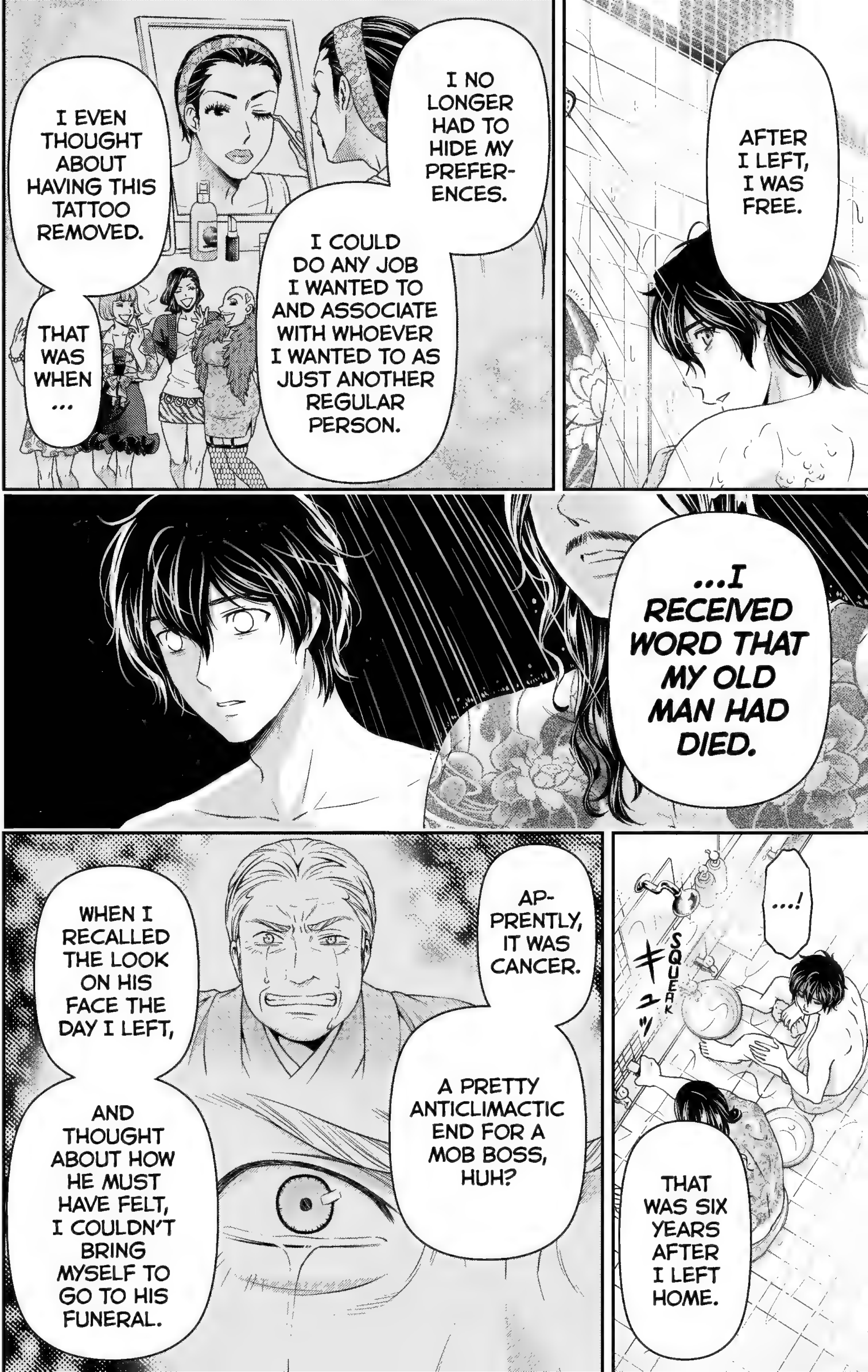

HUH?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW, NATSUO-CHAN?
DIDN'T RUI-RUI TELL YOU?
NO...
NOTHING...
SHE WAS PROBABLY BEING CONSIDERATE OF ME.
NOT THAT I REALLY HIDE IT.
I USED TO BE A YAKUZA LIEUTENANT.
I'VE LONG SINCE WASHED MY HANDS OF THAT LIFE, THOUGH.
UMM...
ARE YOU SURE...
...THEY'LL LET YOU IN WITH THAT?

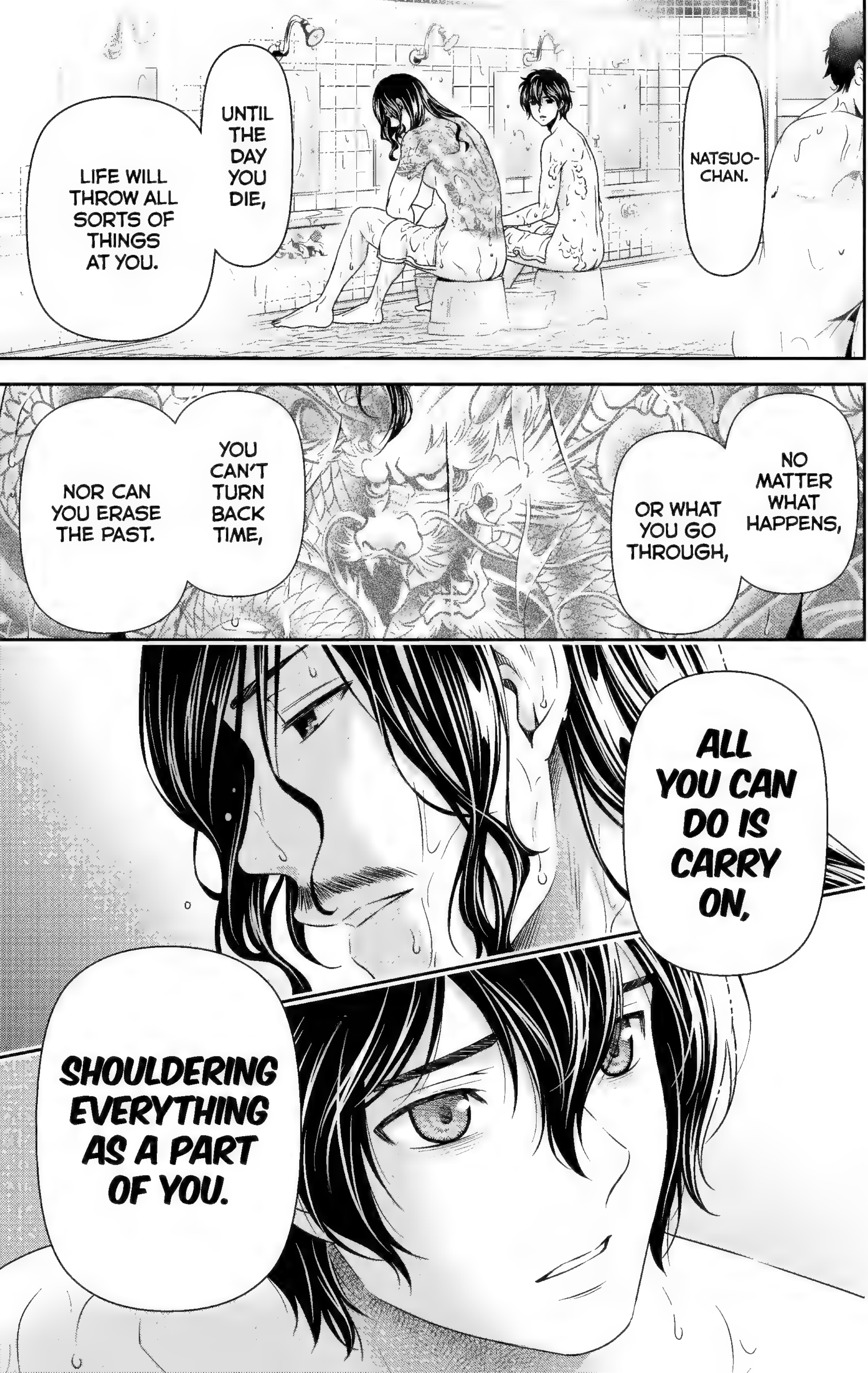

THE OWNER IS A REGULAR AT MY STORE.
CHEEESE
SHE MAKES AN EXCEPTION FOR ME.
MAA-CHAN IS SOMETHING LIKE A BOUNCER FOR THE SHOPPING DISTRICT.
YEAH, I BET THAT GETUP IS USEFUL FOR BREAKING UP FIGHTS ...
HEY, BOSS! LONG TIME NO SEE.
YOO-HOO, GRAMPS. HOW'S THE OLD PLUMBING?
THE CUSTOMERS HERE ARE ALL LOCALS,
カララ
SLIDE
SO I KNOW JUST ABOUT ALL OF THEM.
HEY, IF IT AIN'T MR. L'AMANT HIMSELF!
DID'JA COME FISHIN' FOR GUYS?
AH, SHOVE IT, YOU GEEZERS.
STILL AS CHISELED AS EVER I SEE.

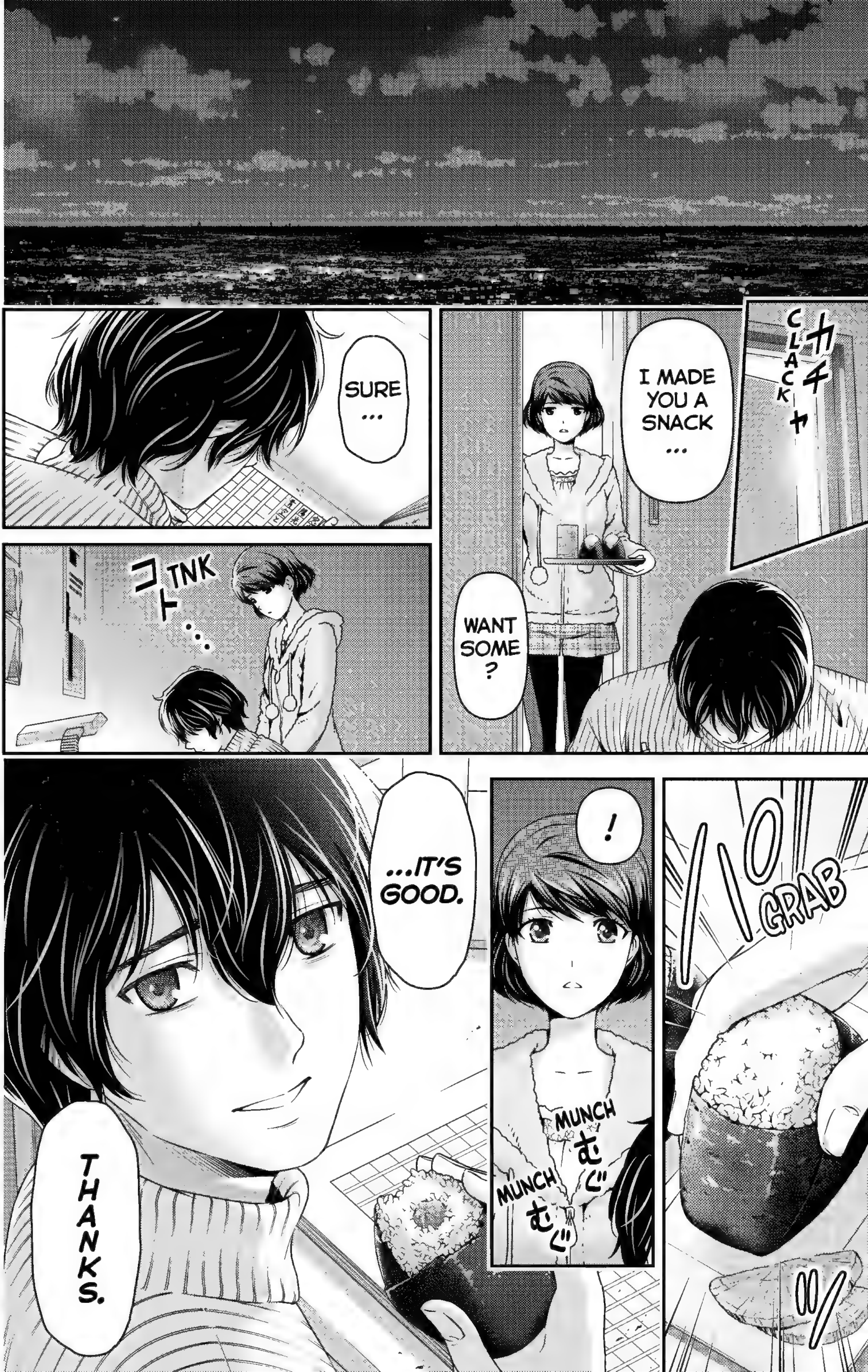

WHY AREN'T YOU STRUTTING YOUR STUFF LIKE USUAL?
'CUZ YOU'VE GOT A GUY WITH YOU TODAY?
GIVE US A PEEK AT THE AKAMORI SHOPPING DISTRICT'S CANNON!
HMPH...
IF YOU INSIST.
SHIIINE
AAAAH! THAT'S THE ONE!
FWIP
PHEW... IMPRESSIVE.
OOOOH!
SHIIINE
FWIP
ALWAYS BLOWS ME AWAY...
...CAN I GO HOME NOW?
NOPE.
I CAN'T TELL WHICH IS MT. FUJI ANYMORE!
SHIIINE

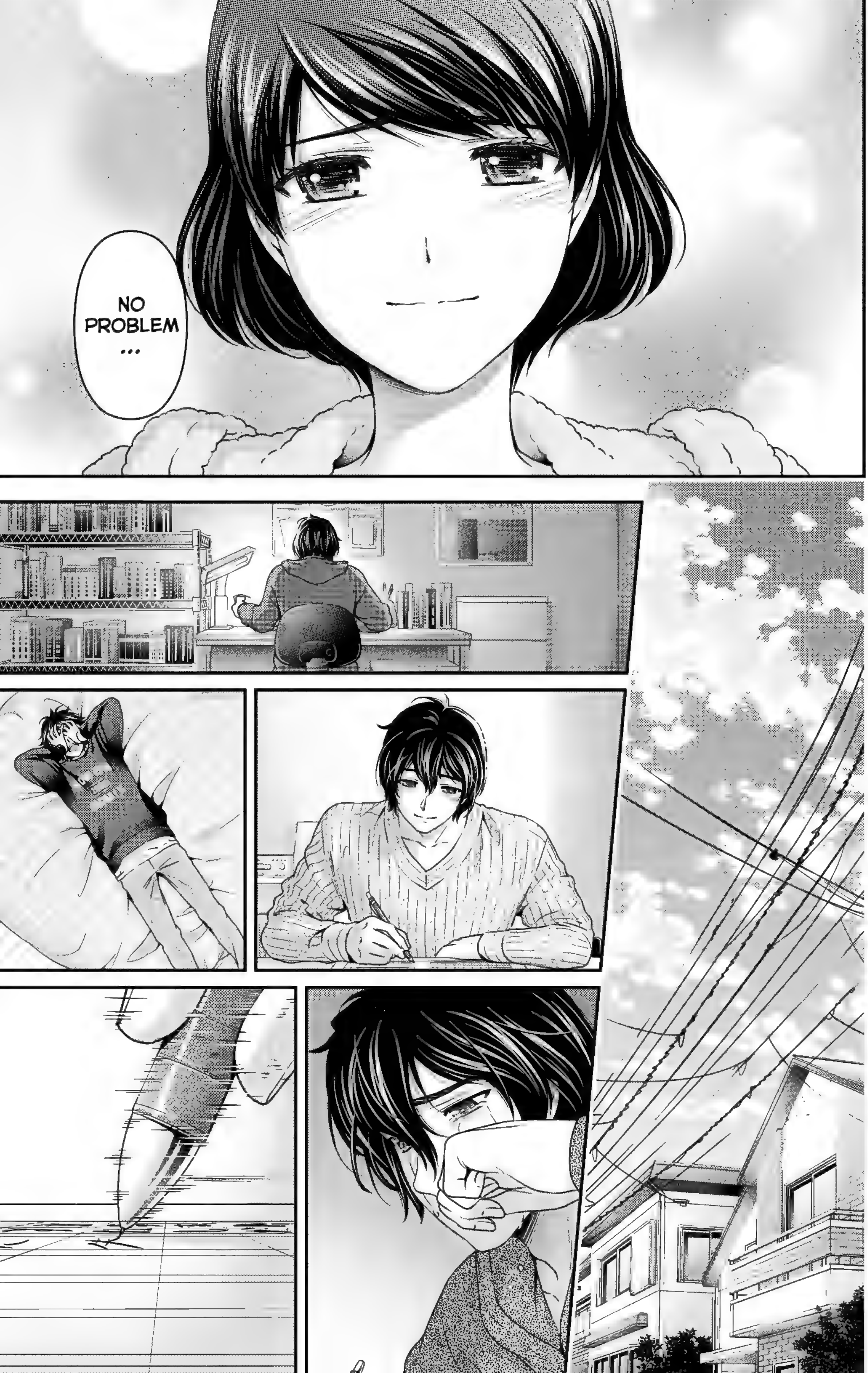

WHEW... LIKE ONE OF THE GODS INCARNATE, AIN'T IT?
REMINDS ME OF MINE BACK IN THE DAY...
LIAR.
UMM ...
WHY A BATH HOUSE, ANYWAY?
WELL,
I DON'T KNOW THE FULL STORY,
BUT I HEARD YOU'VE BEEN PRETTY DOWN IN THE DUMPS LATELY.
SO, I FIGURED WHAT YOU MIGHT NEED...
IS A NICE, LONG BATH ...
...TO REFRESH AND GET YOUR HEAD IN ORDER.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME ANYTHING YOU CAN'T.
LIFE'S FULL OF SURPRISES.

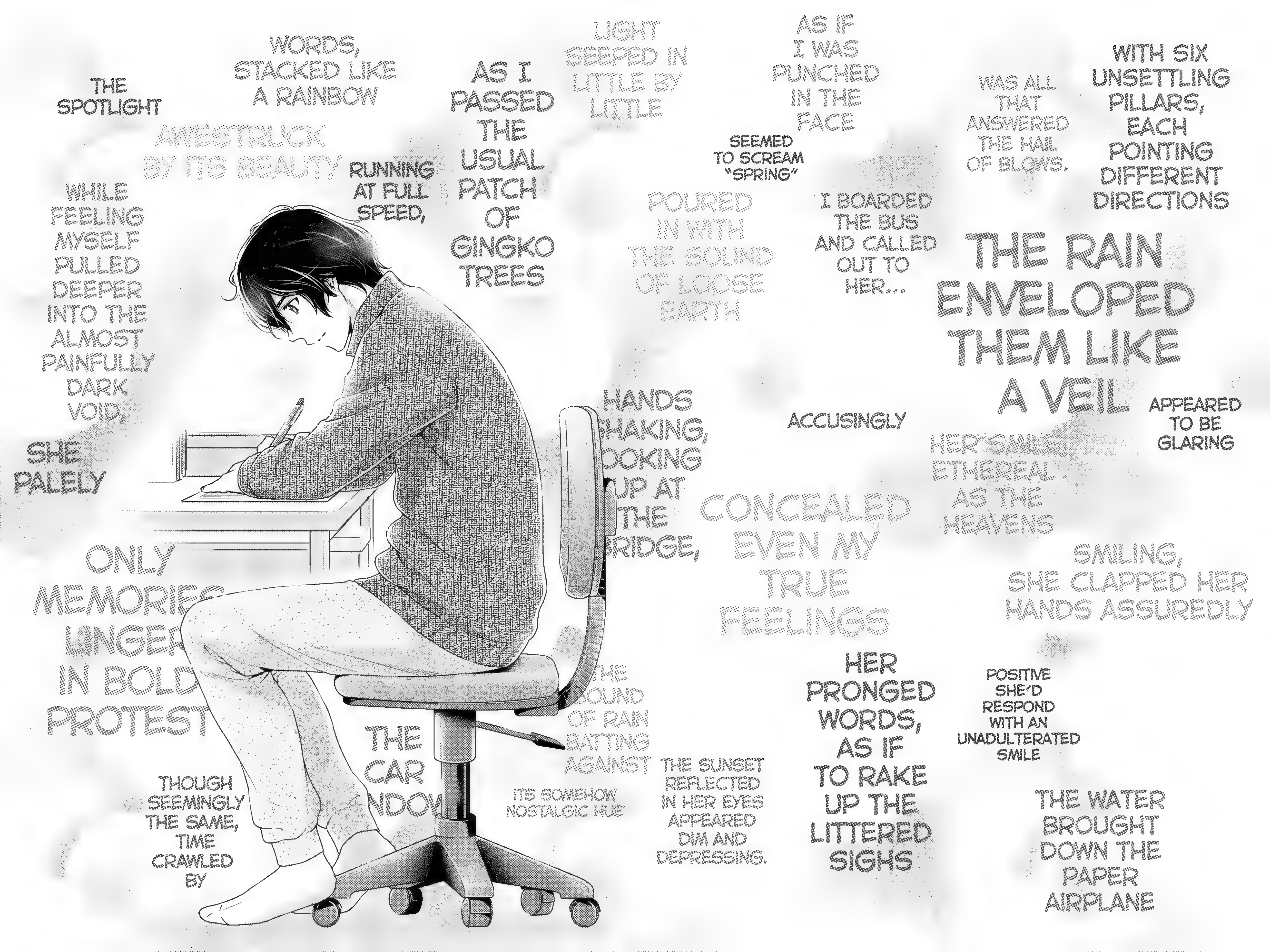

...
I COME FROM A LONG-STANDING YAKUZA FAMILY.
GROWING UP IN THAT ENVIRONMENT,
I NEVER IMAGINED I'D END UP CUTTING TIES WITH MY PARENTS AND DISOWNING THE FAMILY.
AS THE ELDEST SON, I KNEW I WAS RAISED WITH SPECIAL CARE TO INHERIT THE BUSINESS SOMEDAY.
MY OLD MAN WAS BOILING MAD WHEN I TOLD HIM I WAS LEAVING THE GROUP.
HE WAS STEAMING AND CRYING AT THE SAME TIME.
HONESTLY, I THOUGHT HE WAS GONNA KILL ME FOR SURE.
ZSHH
WHY DON'T WE WASH UP NOW?

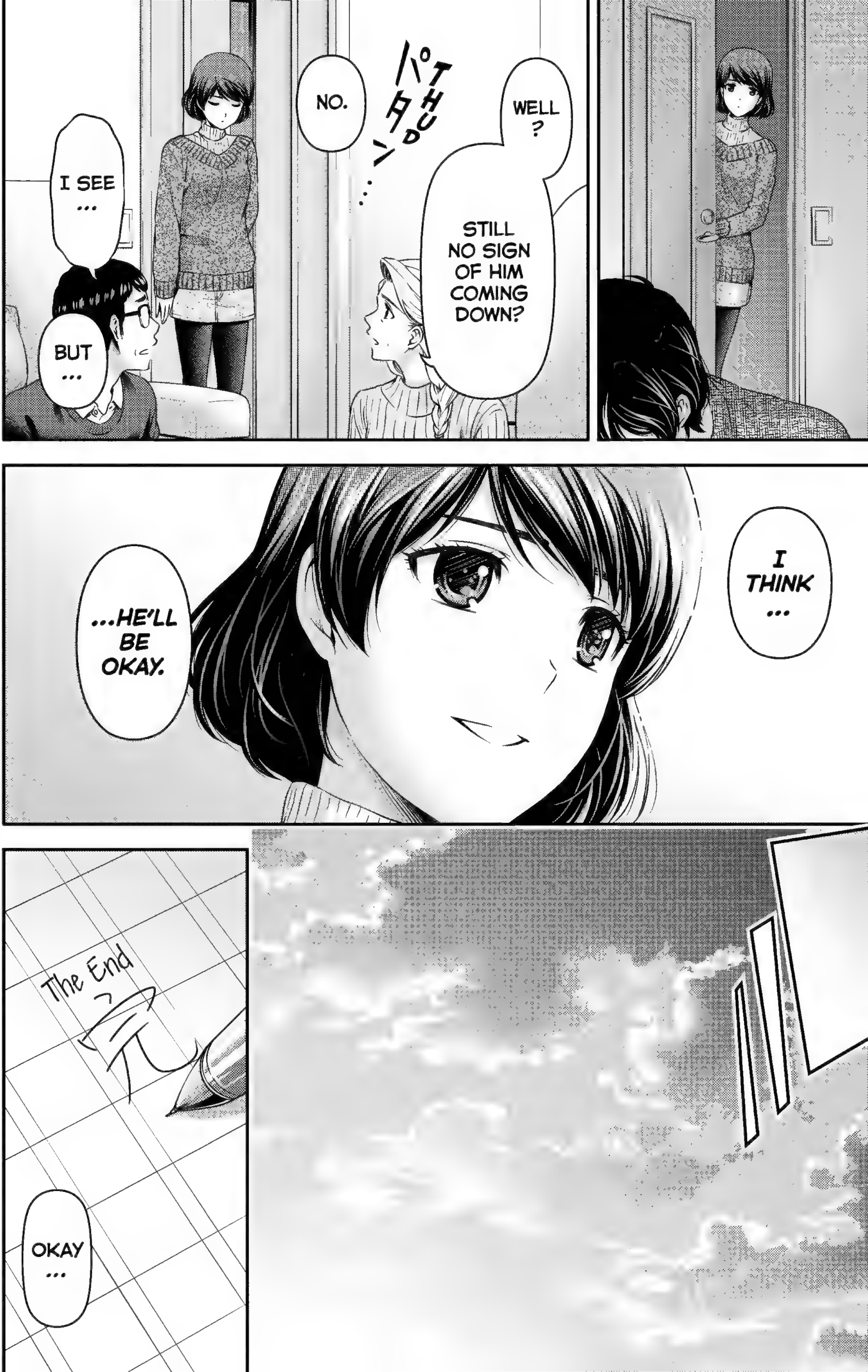

AFTER I LEFT, I WAS FREE.
I NO LONGER HAD TO HIDE MY PREFERENCES.
I COULD DO ANY JOB I WANTED TO AND ASSOCIATE WITH WHOEVER I WANTED TO AS JUST ANOTHER REGULAR PERSON.
I EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT HAVING THIS TATTOO REMOVED.
THAT WAS WHEN ...
...I RECEIVED WORD THAT MY OLD MAN HAD DIED.
...!
キュッ
SQUEAK
THAT WAS SIX YEARS AFTER I LEFT HOME.
APPRENTLY, IT WAS CANCER.
A PRETTY ANTICLIMACTIC END FOR A MOB BOSS, HUH?
WHEN I RECALLED THE LOOK ON HIS FACE THE DAY I LEFT,
AND THOUGHT ABOUT HOW HE MUST HAVE FELT, I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO GO TO HIS FUNERAL.

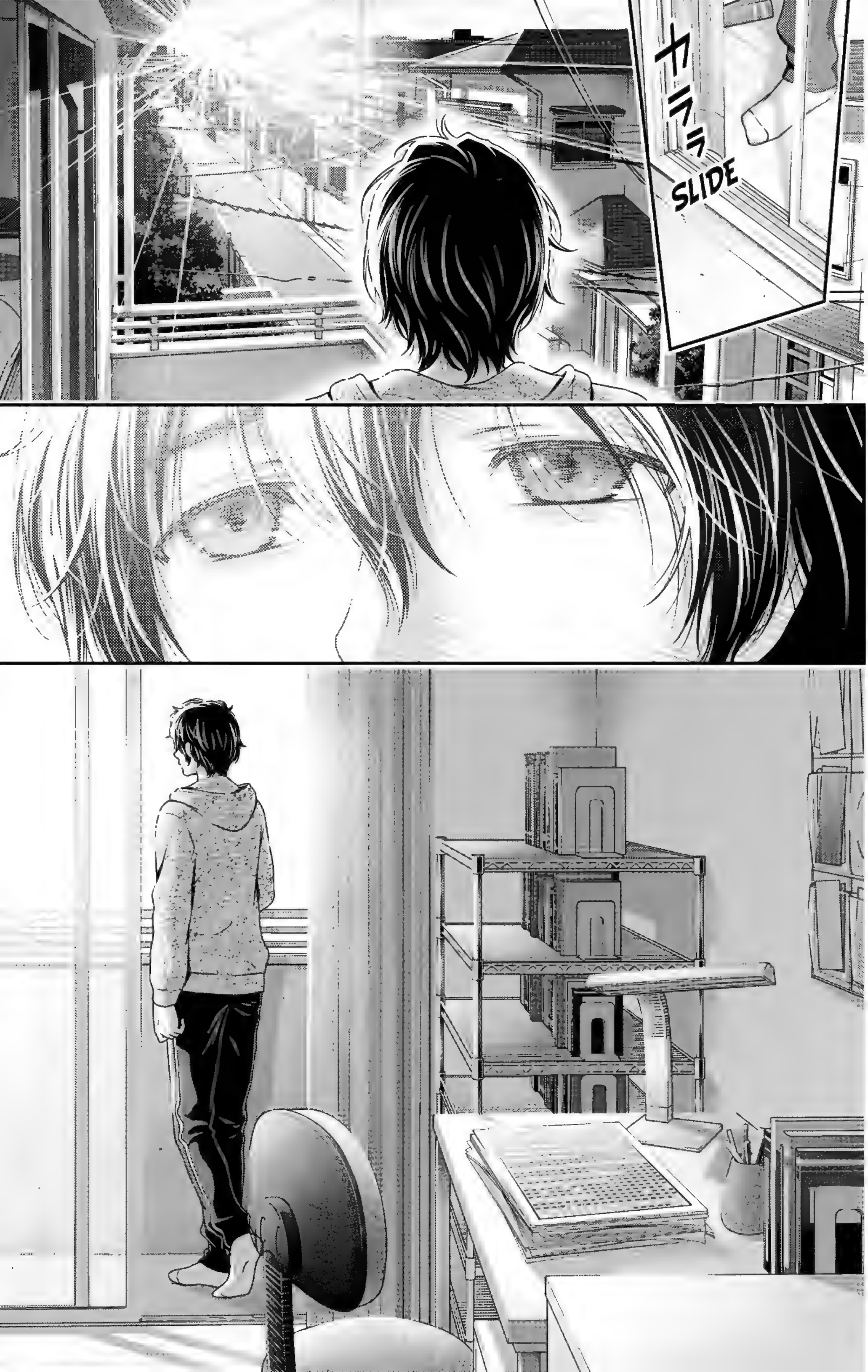

NATSUO-CHAN.
UNTIL THE DAY YOU DIE,
LIFE WILL THROW ALL SORTS OF THINGS AT YOU.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS,
OR WHAT YOU GO THROUGH,
YOU CAN'T TURN BACK TIME,
NOR CAN YOU ERASE THE PAST.
ALL YOU CAN DO IS CARRY ON,
SHOULDERING EVERYTHING AS A PART OF YOU.


カチャ
CLACK
I MADE YOU A SNACK ...
WANT SOME ?
SURE ...
コト
TNK
...
GRAB
!
MUNCH
むぐ
MUNCH
むぐ
...IT'S GOOD.
THANKS.


NO PROBLEM ...

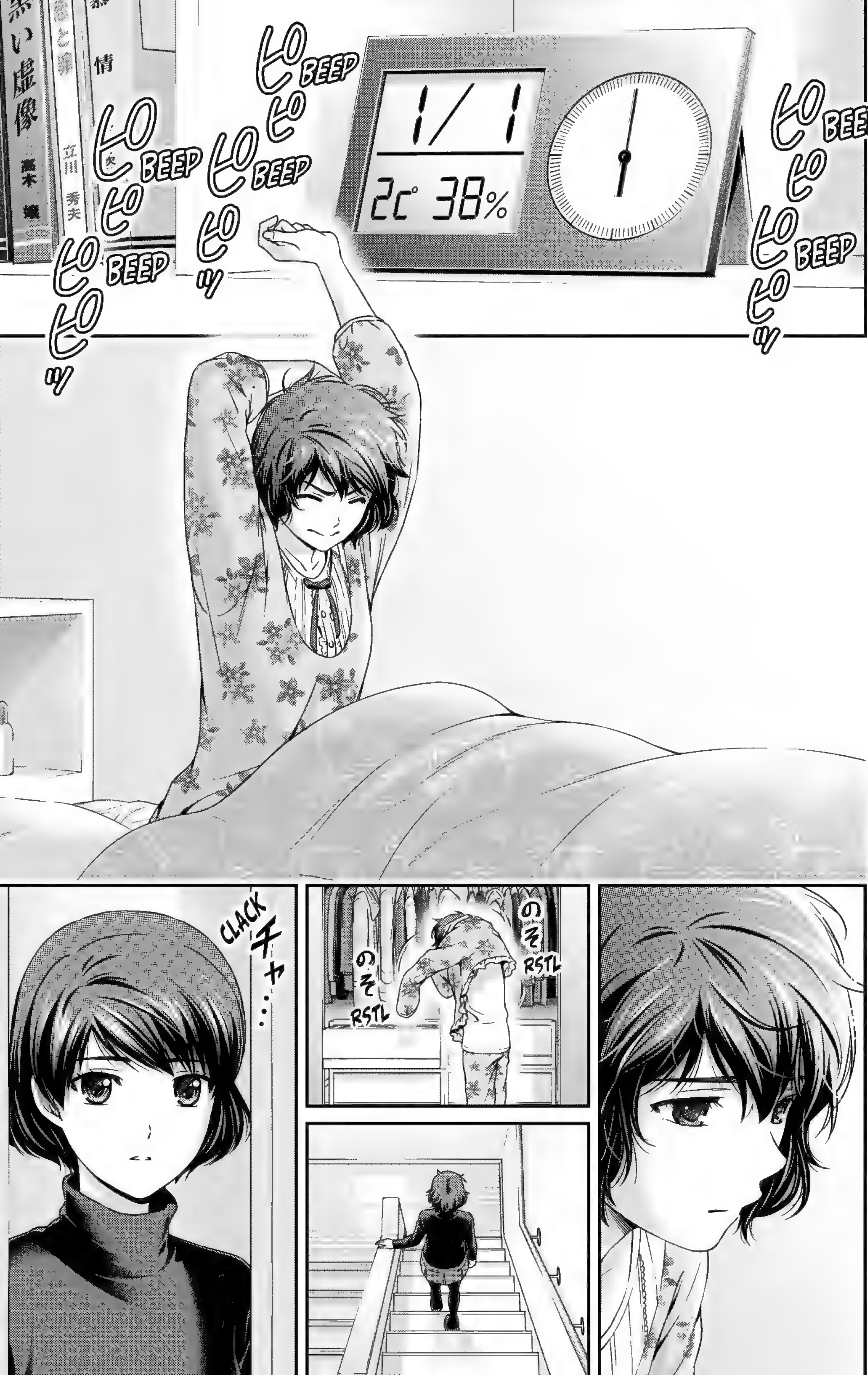

WITH SIX UNSETTLING PILLARS, EACH POINTING DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS
WAS ALL THAT ANSWERED THE HAIL OF BLOWS.
AS IF I WAS PUNCHED IN THE FACE
SEEMED TO SCREAM "SPRING"
I BOARDED THE BUS AND CALLED OUT TO HER...
LIGHT SEEPED IN LITTLE BY LITTLE
POURED IN WITH THE SOUND OF LOOSE EARTH
AS I PASSED THE USUAL PATCH OF GINGKO TREES
WORDS, STACKED LIKE A RAINBOW
RUNNING AT FULL SPEED,
THE SPOTLIGHT
AWESTRUCK BY ITS BEAUTY
WHILE FEELING MYSELF PULLED DEEPER INTO THE ALMOST PAINFULLY DARK VOID,
THE RAIN ENVELOPED THEM LIKE A VEIL
APPEARED TO BE GLARING
HER SMILE ETHEREAL AS THE HEAVENS
ACCUSINGLY
HANDS SHAKING, LOOKING UP AT THE BRIDGE,
CONCEALED EVEN MY TRUE FEELINGS
SHE PALELY
SMILING, SHE CLAPPED HER HANDS ASSUREDLY
POSITIVE SHE'D RESPOND WITH AN UNADULTERATED SMILE
HER PRONGED WORDS, AS IF TO RAKE UP THE LITTERED SIGHS
THE WATER BROUGHT DOWN THE PAPER AIRPLANE
THE SOUND OF RAIN BATTING AGAINST
THE SUNSET REFLECTED IN HER EYES APPEARED DIM AND DEPRESSING.
ITS SOMEHOW NOSTALGIC HUE
THE CAR WINDOW
ONLY MEMORIES LINGER IN BOLD PROTEST
THOUGH SEEMINGLY THE SAME, TIME CRAWLED BY

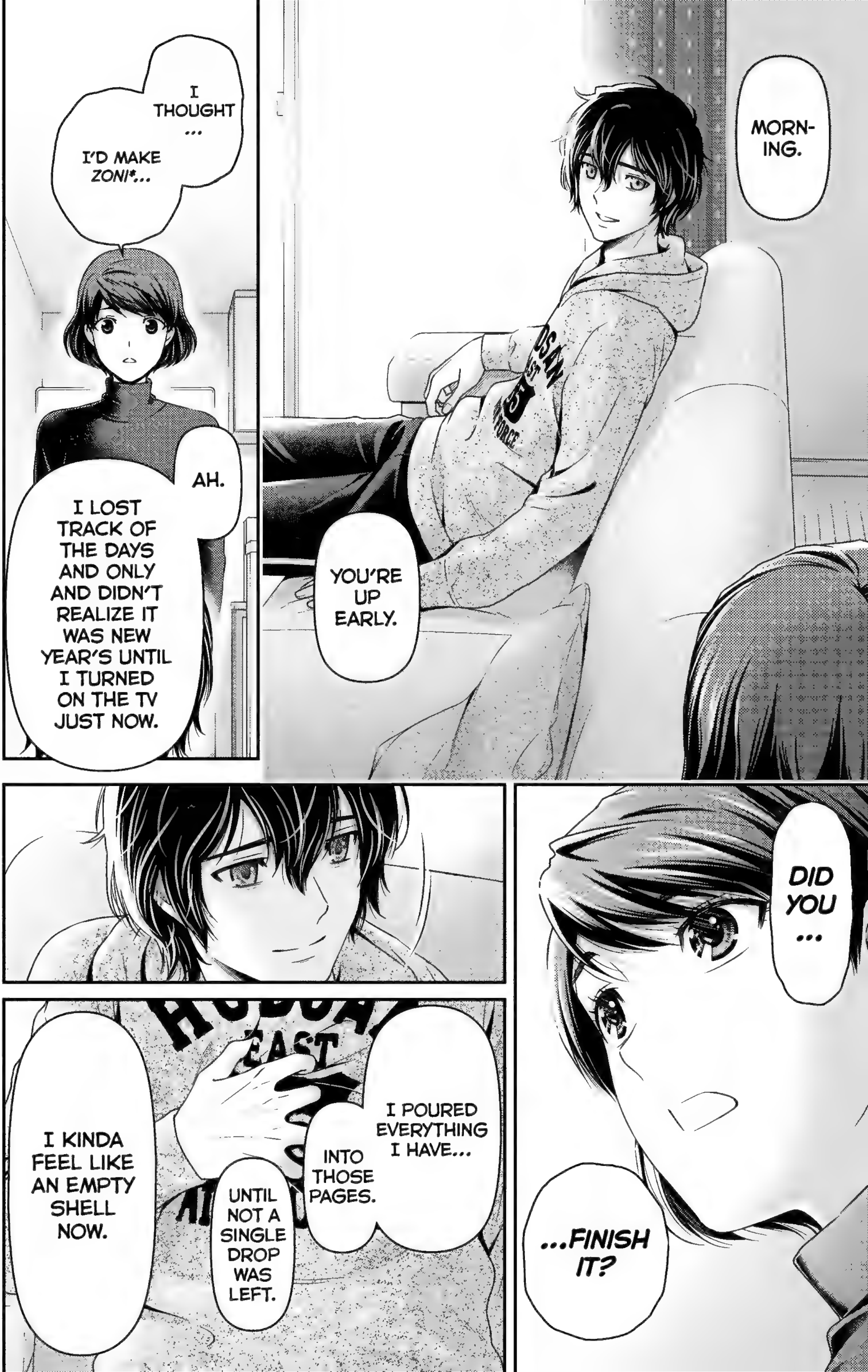

WELL?
STILL NO SIGN OF HIM COMING DOWN?
パタン… THUD
NO.
I SEE…
BUT…
I THINK…
…HE'LL BE OKAY.
The End
完
OKAY…


カララ
SLIDE

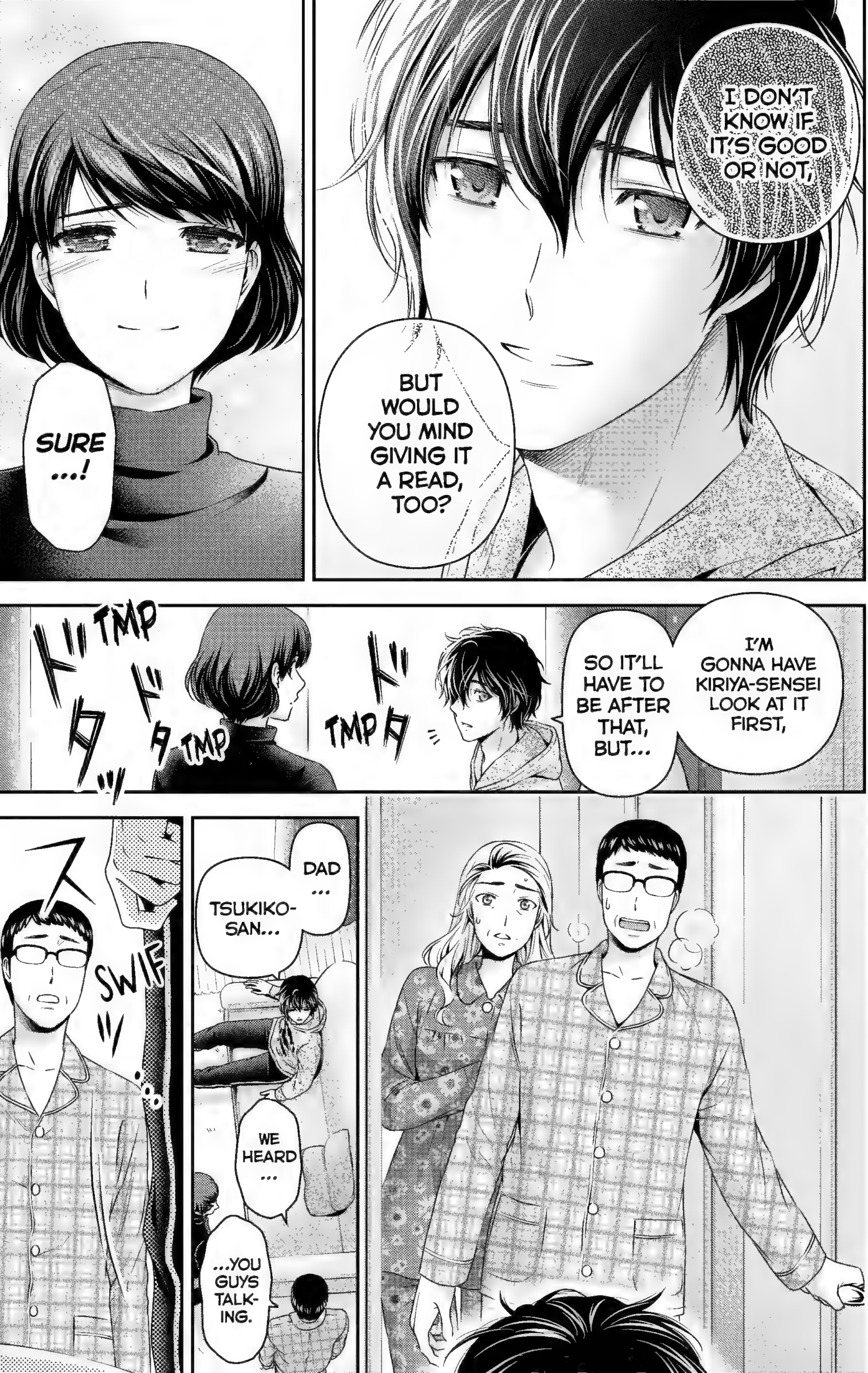
CHAPTER 67: A NEW YEAR WITHOUT HINA

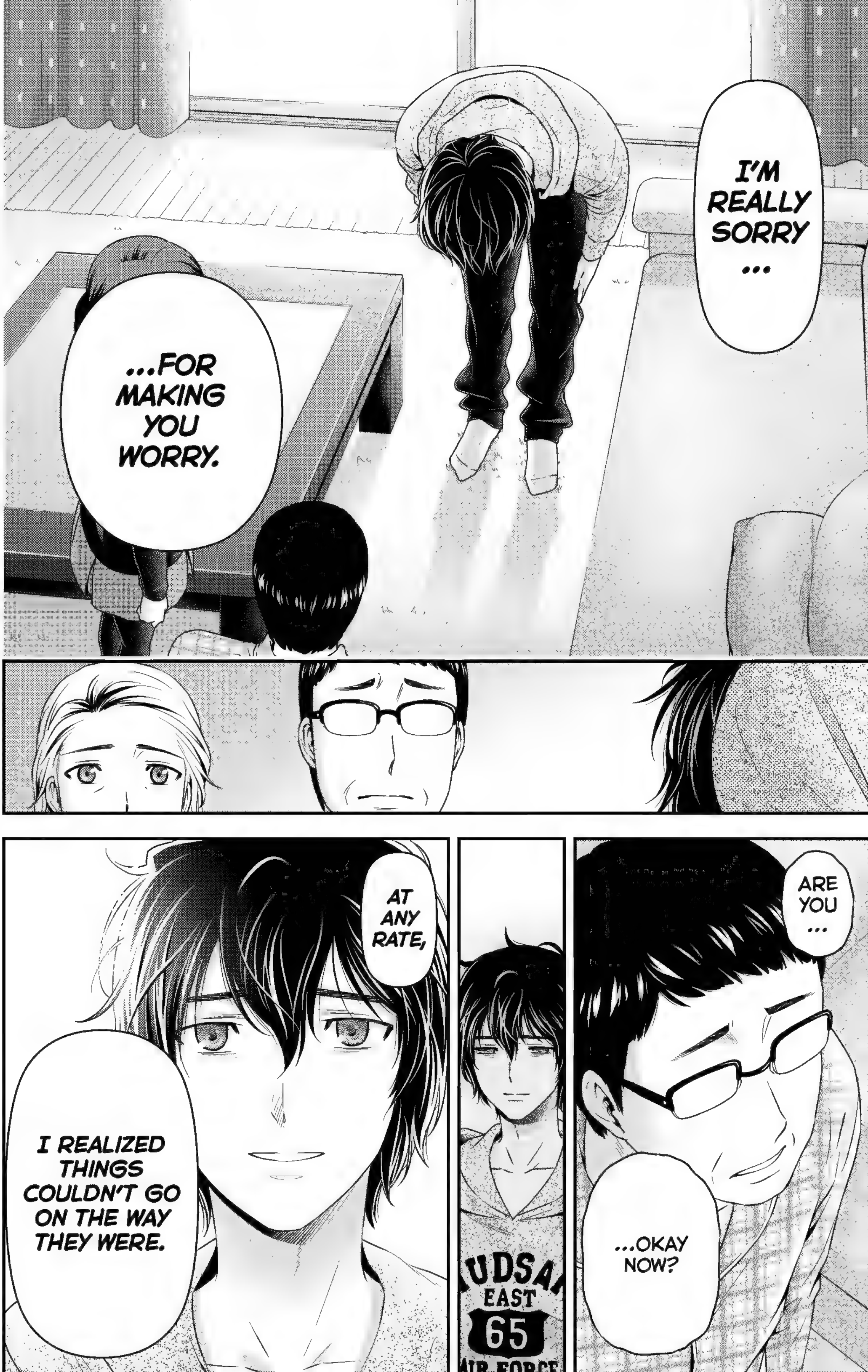
Uee COFFEE
Uee COFFEE
Since 1988
Milk&Coffee

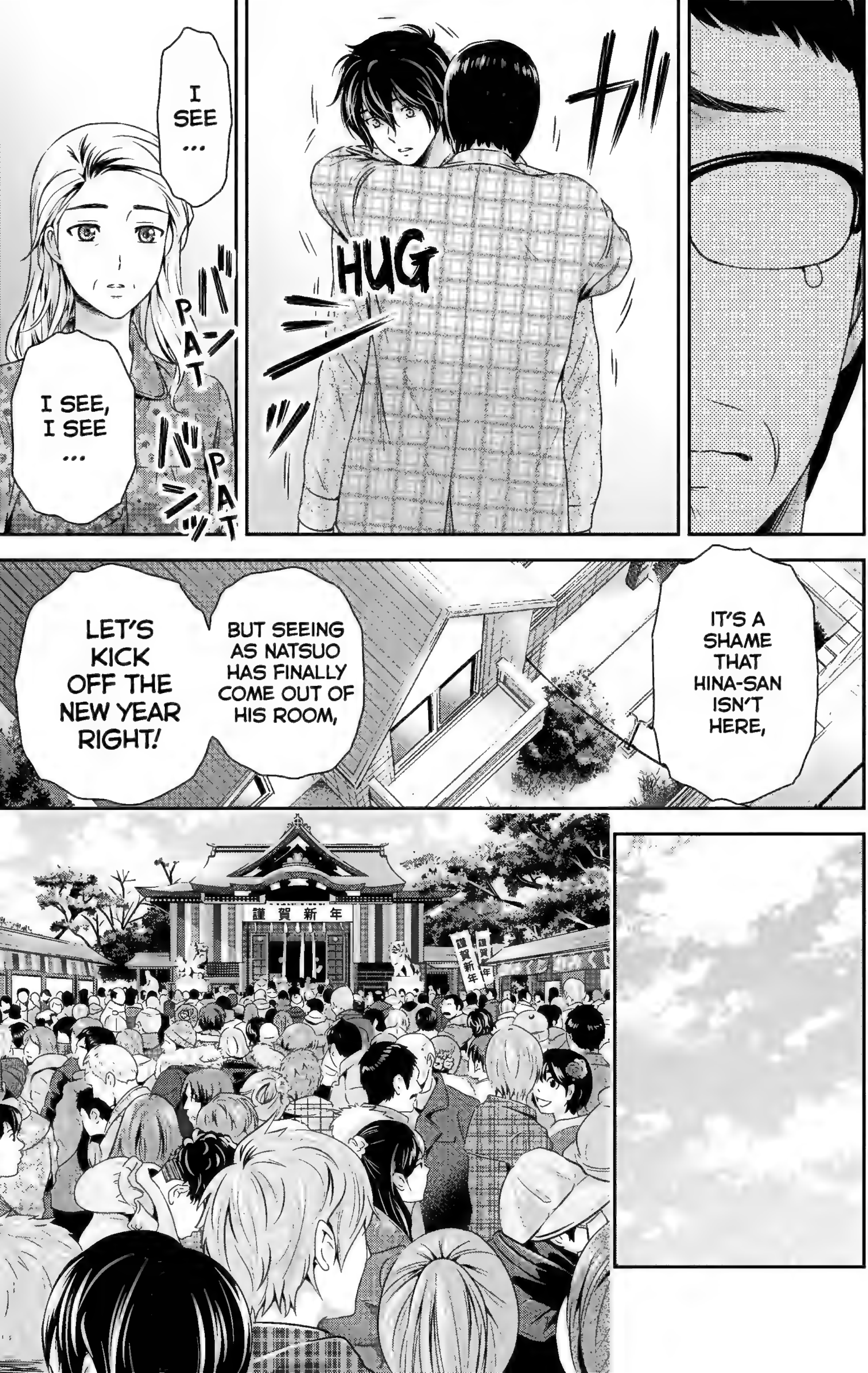

ピピピピッ
BEEP
BEEP
1/1
2c° 38%
ピピピッ
BEEP
BEEP
ピピピピッ
BEEP
BEEP
黒い虚像
立川 秀夫
のそ
RSTL
のそ
RSTL
CLACK
チャ…

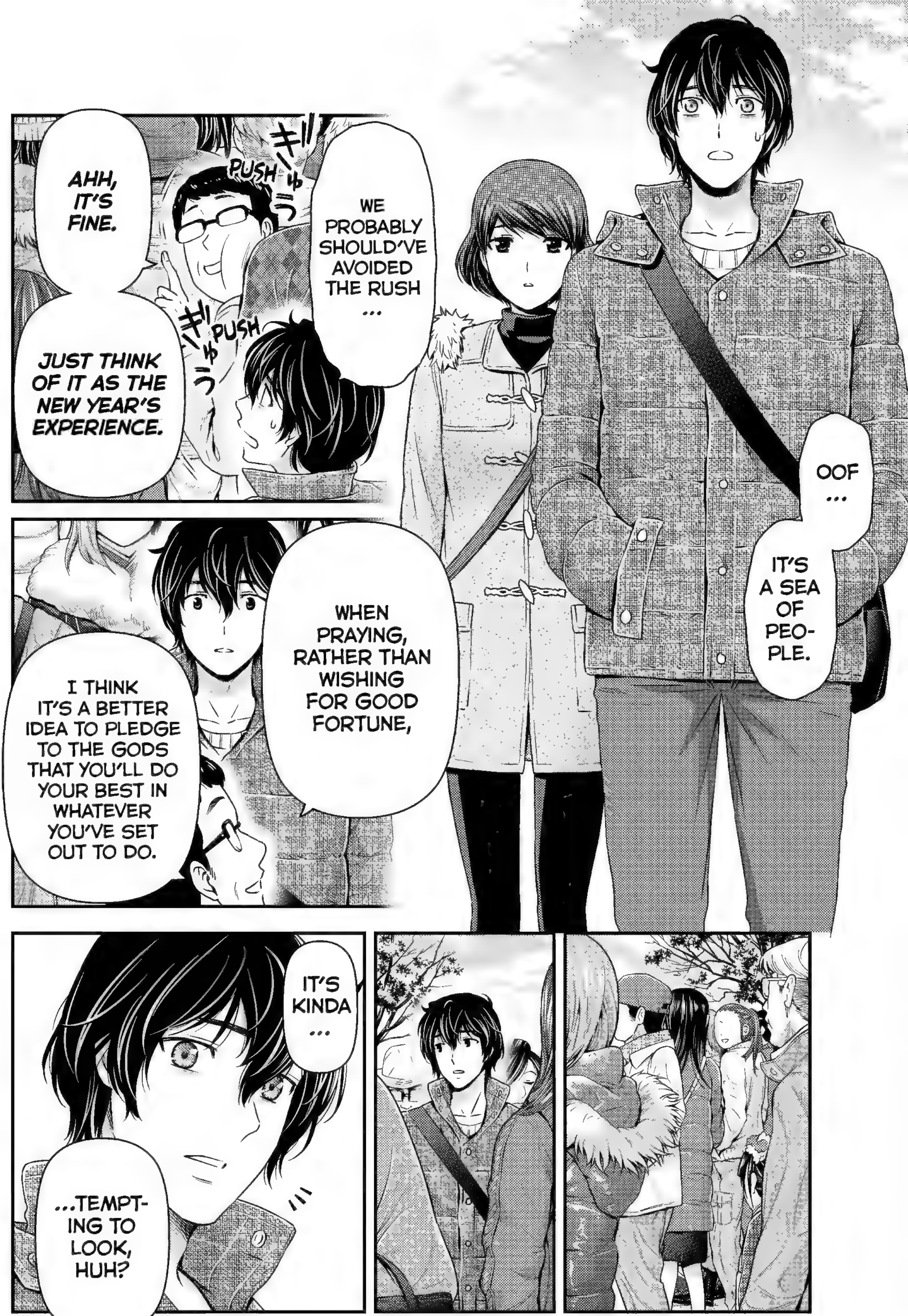

MORNING.
YOU'RE UP EARLY.
I THOUGHT... I'D MAKE *ZONI**...
AH.
I LOST TRACK OF THE DAYS AND ONLY AND DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS NEW YEAR'S UNTIL I TURNED ON THE TV JUST NOW.
DID YOU...
...FINISH IT?
I POURED EVERYTHING I HAVE...
INTO THOSE PAGES.
UNTIL NOT A SINGLE DROP WAS LEFT.
I KINDA FEEL LIKE AN EMPTY SHELL NOW.

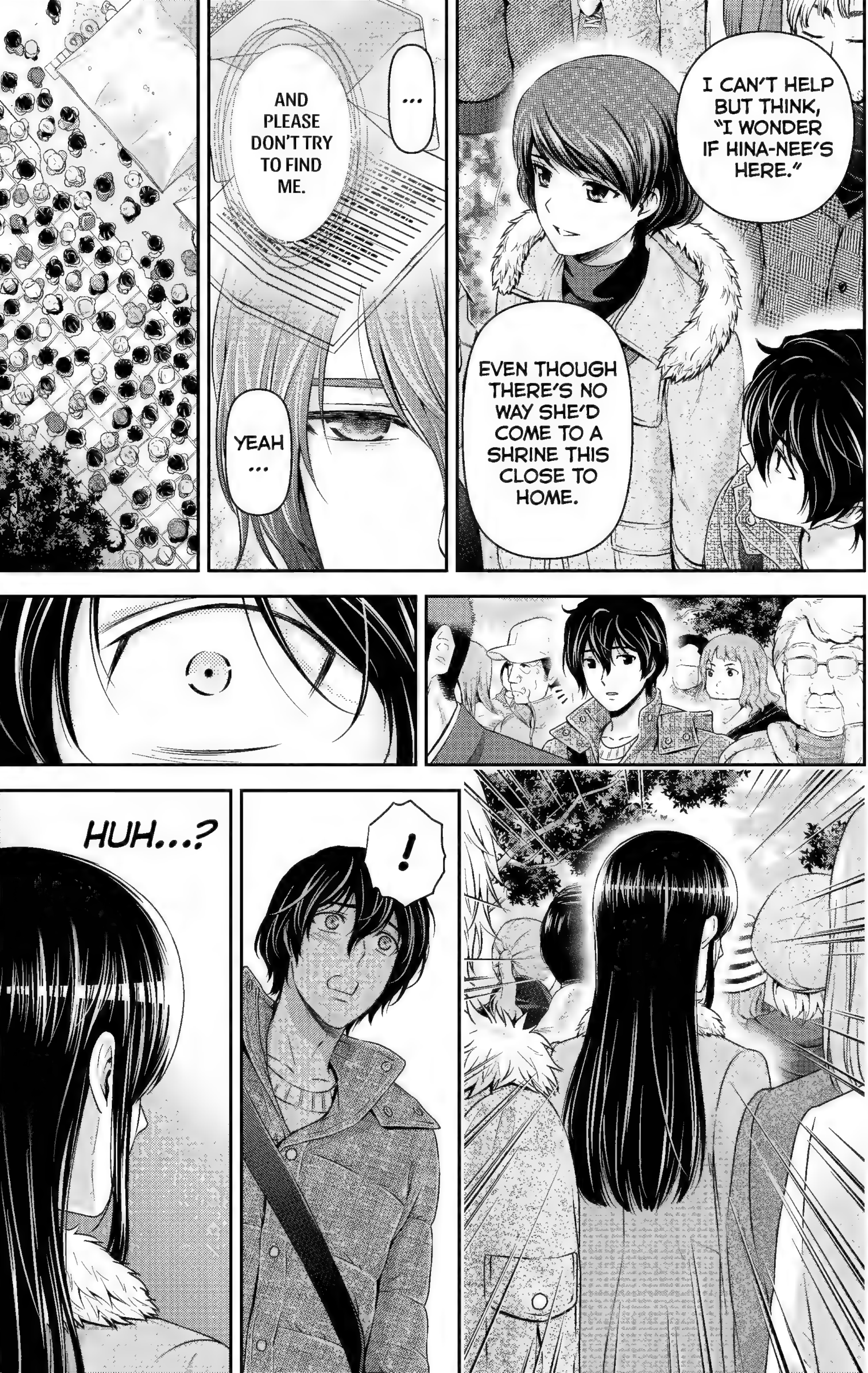
*A JAPANESE SOUP CONTAINING *MOCHI* RICE CAKES TRADITIONALLY EATEN ON NEW YEAR'S.

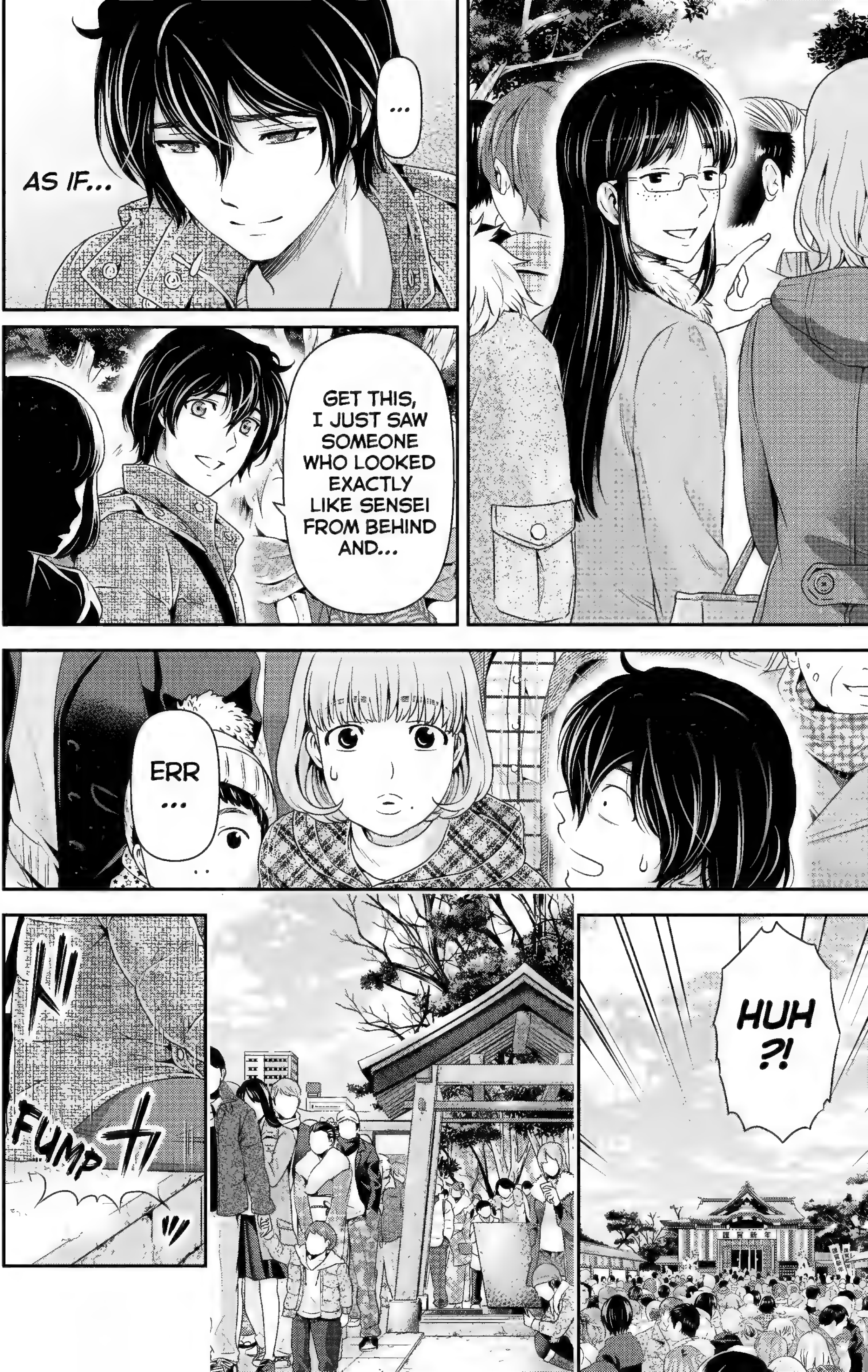

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S GOOD OR NOT,
BUT WOULD YOU MIND GIVING IT A READ, TOO?
SURE ...!
I'M GONNA HAVE KIRIYA-SENSEI LOOK AT IT FIRST,
SO IT'LL HAVE TO BE AFTER THAT, BUT...
ドド TMP タ
TMP
ドッ TMP
ドタ TMP
タッ
DAD ...
TSUKIKO-SAN...
WE HEARD ...
...YOU GUYS TALKING.
ス
SWIF
ッ
...

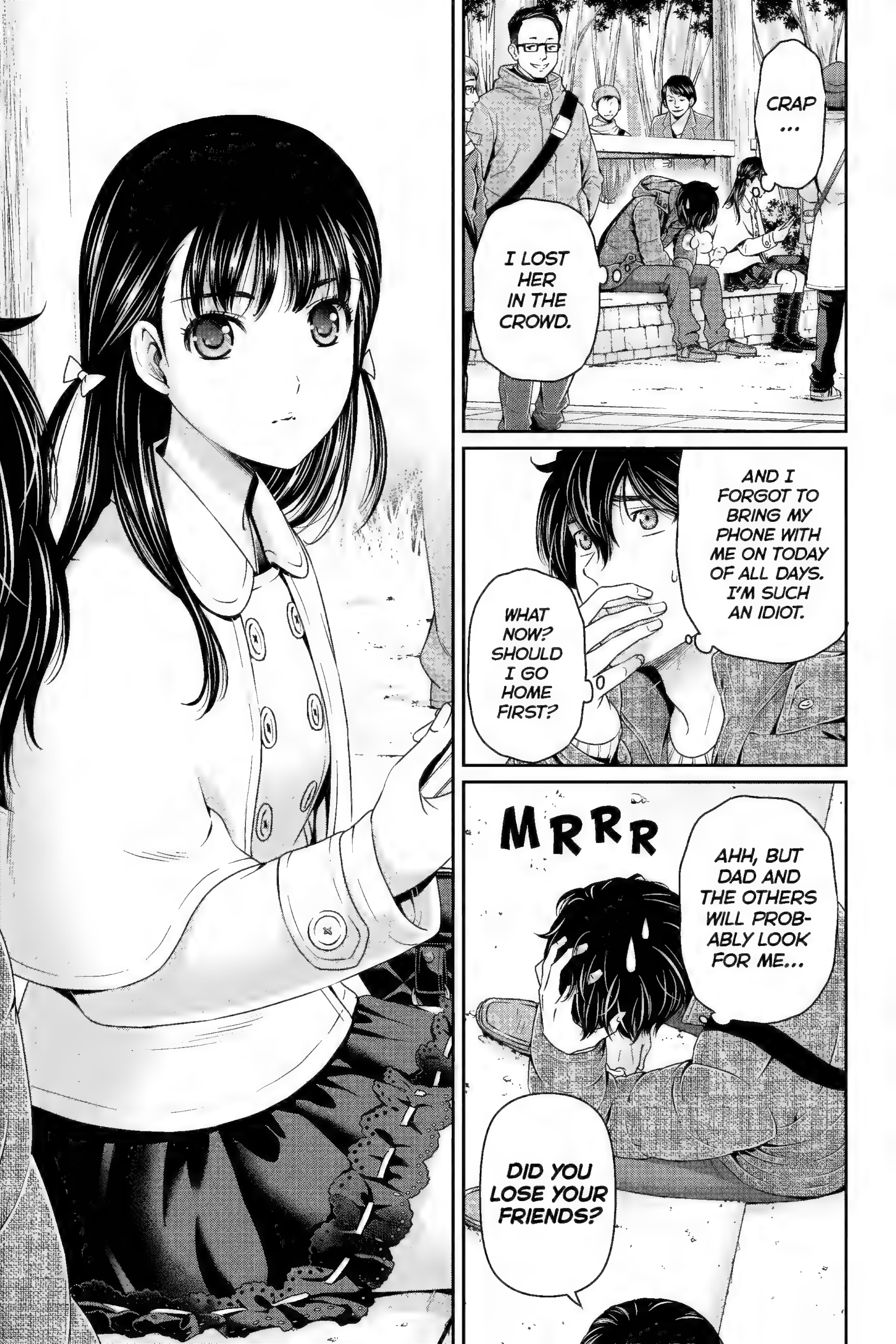

I'M REALLY SORRY...
...FOR MAKING YOU WORRY.
ARE YOU...
...OKAY NOW?
EAST
65
AT ANY RATE,
I REALIZED THINGS COULDN'T GO ON THE WAY THEY WERE.

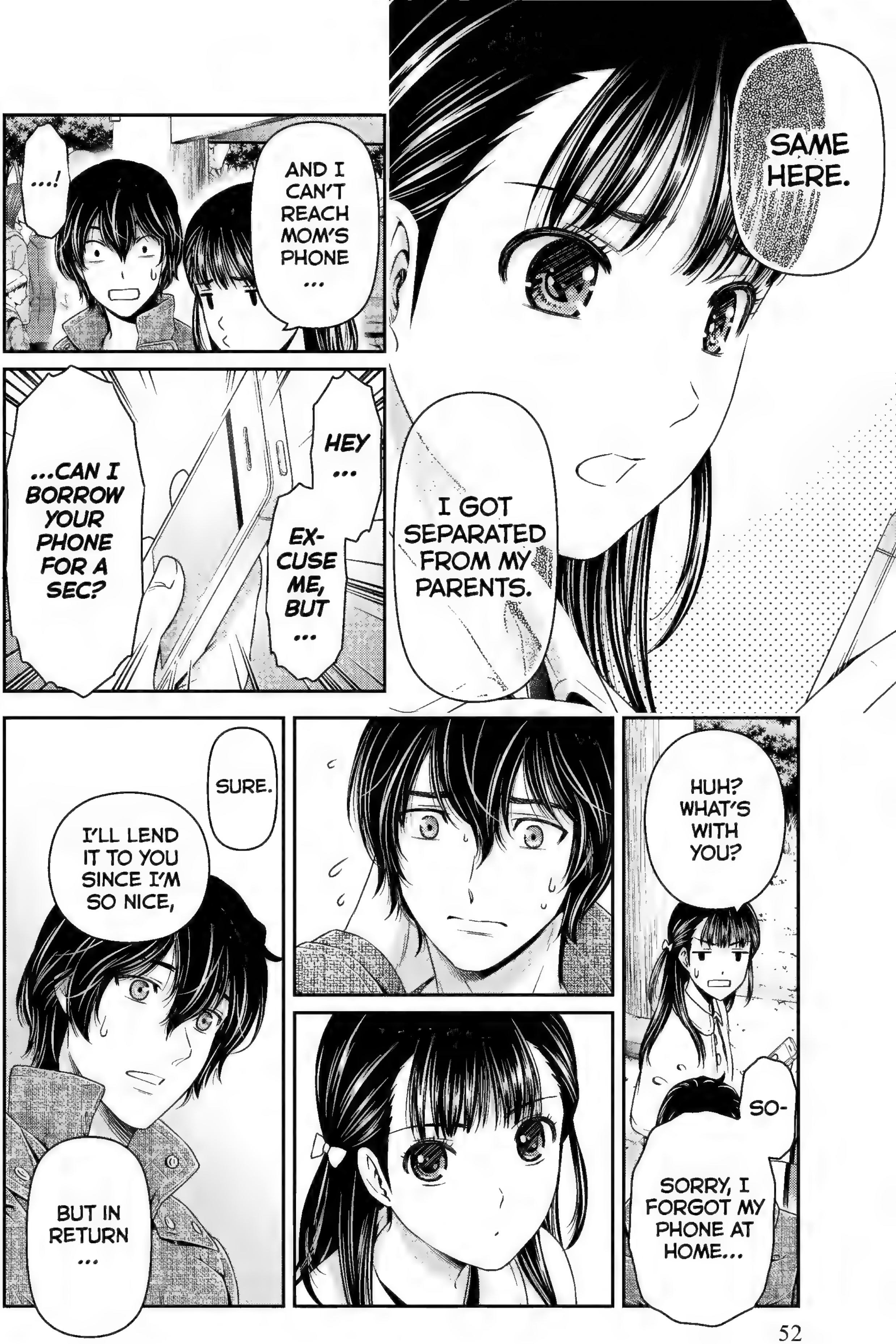

ガッ
HUG
I SEE…
I SEE, I SEE…
バーン
PAT
バンッ
PAT
IT'S A SHAME THAT HINA-SAN ISN'T HERE,
BUT SEEING AS NATSUO HAS FINALLY COME OUT OF HIS ROOM,
LET'S KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR RIGHT!
謹賀新年
謹賀新年
謹賀新年

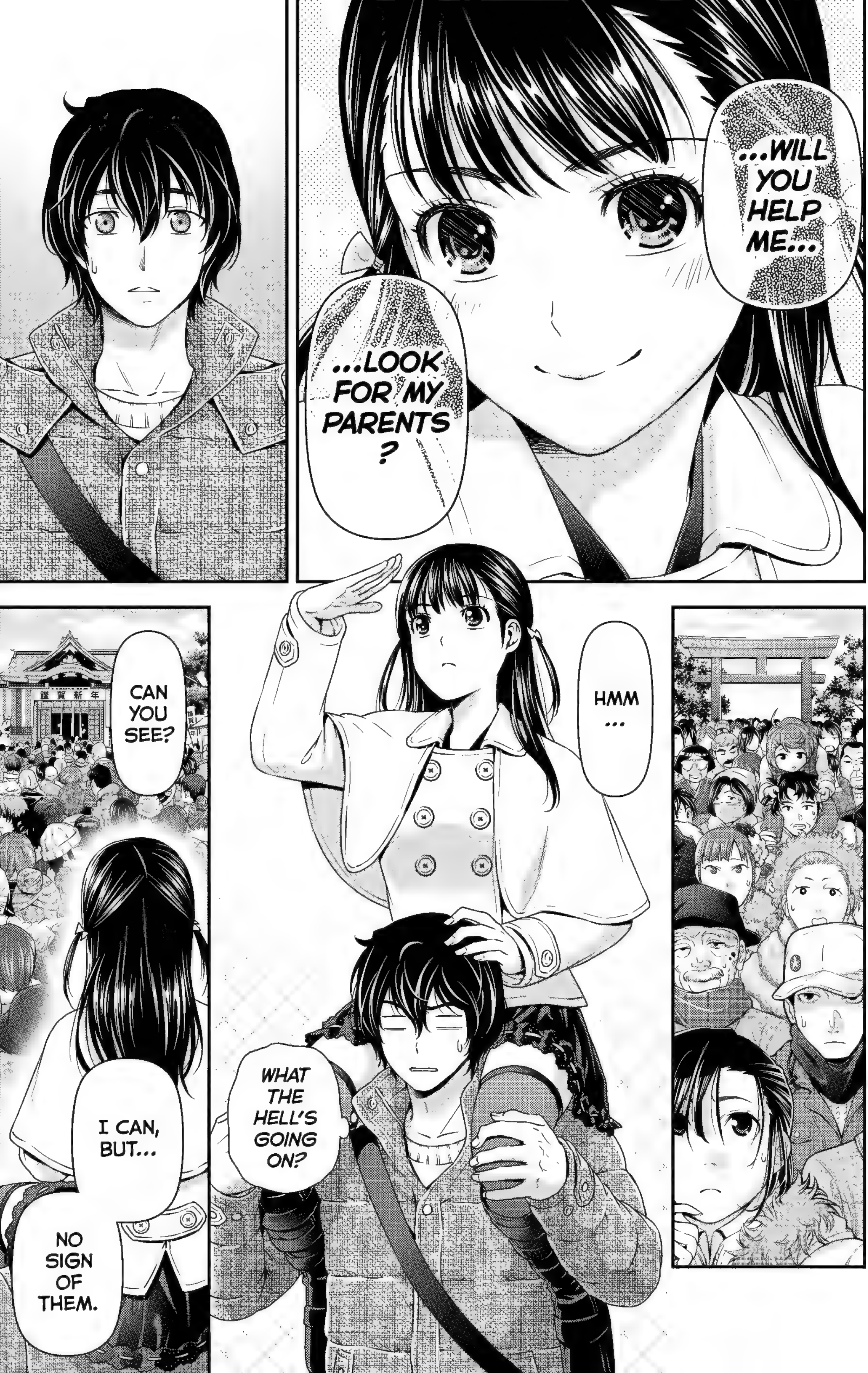

OOF...
IT'S A SEA OF PEOPLE.
ギュう PUSH
WE PROBABLY SHOULD'VE AVOIDED THE RUSH...
AHH, IT'S FINE.
ギュう PUSH
JUST THINK OF IT AS THE NEW YEAR'S EXPERIENCE.
WHEN PRAYING, RATHER THAN WISHING FOR GOOD FORTUNE,
I THINK IT'S A BETTER IDEA TO PLEDGE TO THE GODS THAT YOU'LL DO YOUR BEST IN WHATEVER YOU'VE SET OUT TO DO.
IT'S KINDA...
...TEMPTING TO LOOK, HUH?

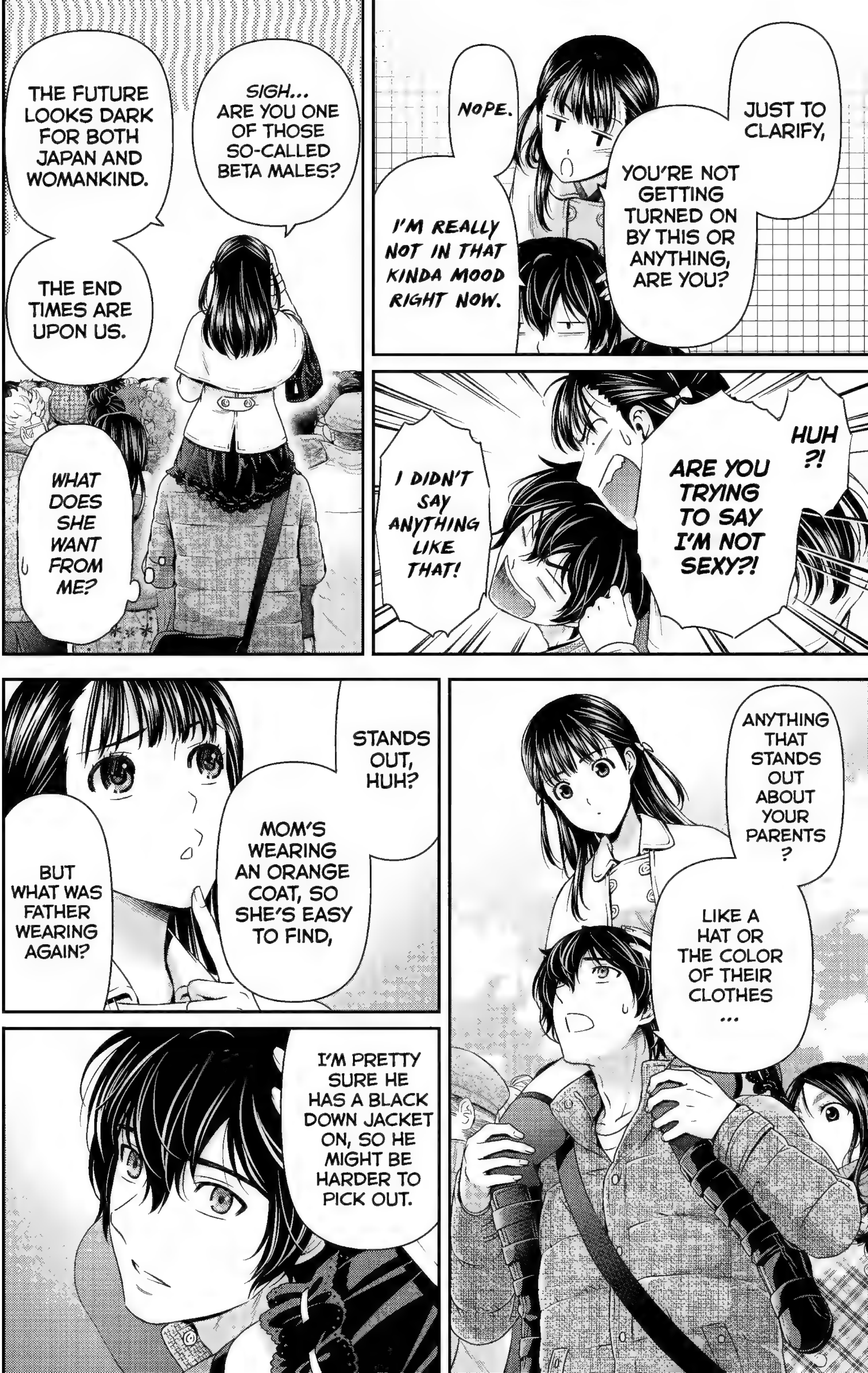

I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK, "I WONDER IF HINA-NEE'S HERE."
EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D COME TO A SHRINE THIS CLOSE TO HOME.
...
AND PLEASE DON'T TRY TO FIND ME.
YEAH ...
!
HUH...?

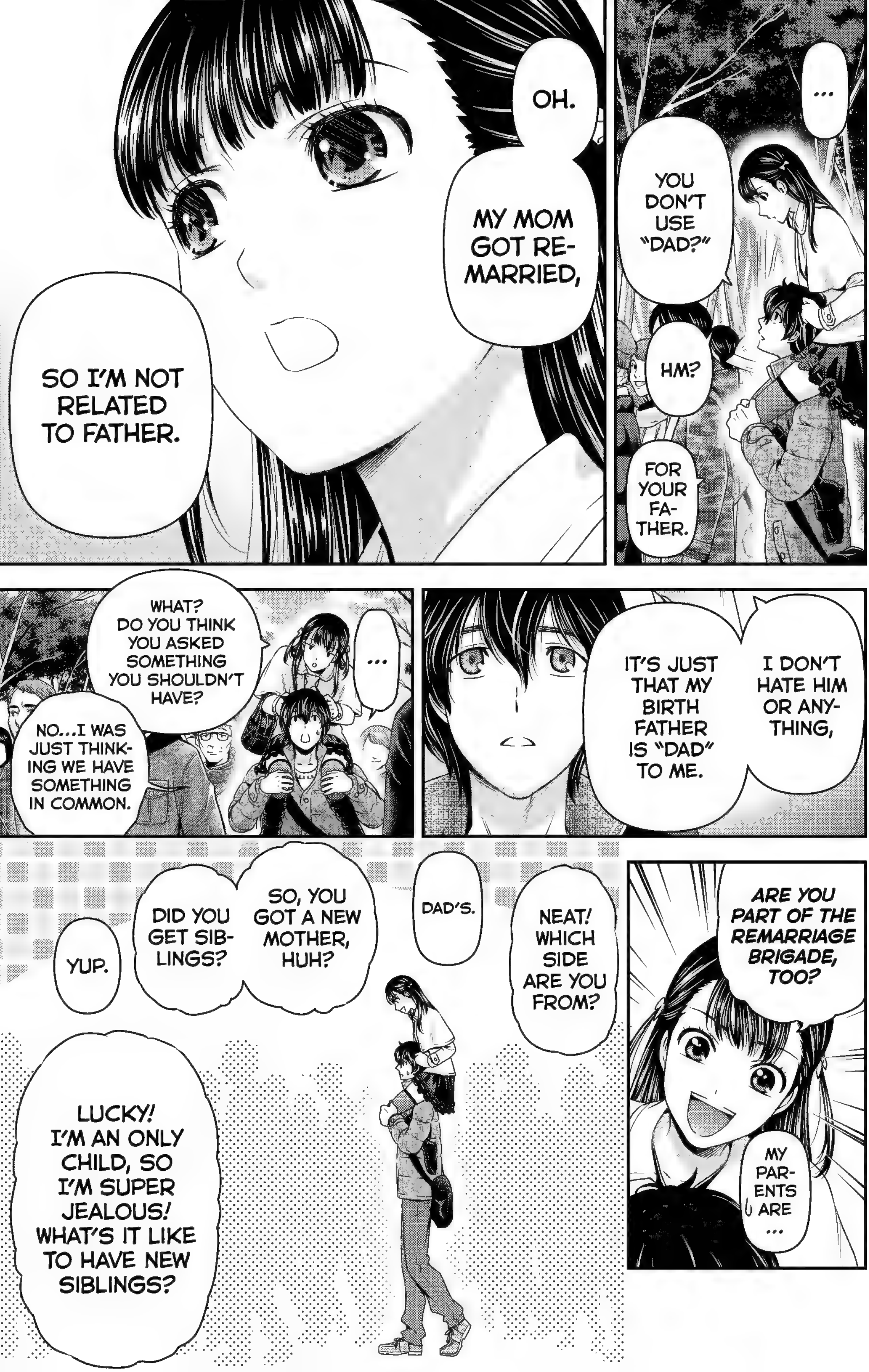

...
AS IF...
GET THIS, I JUST SAW SOMEONE WHO LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE SENSEI FROM BEHIND AND...
ERR ...
HUH ?!
謹賀新年
FUMP

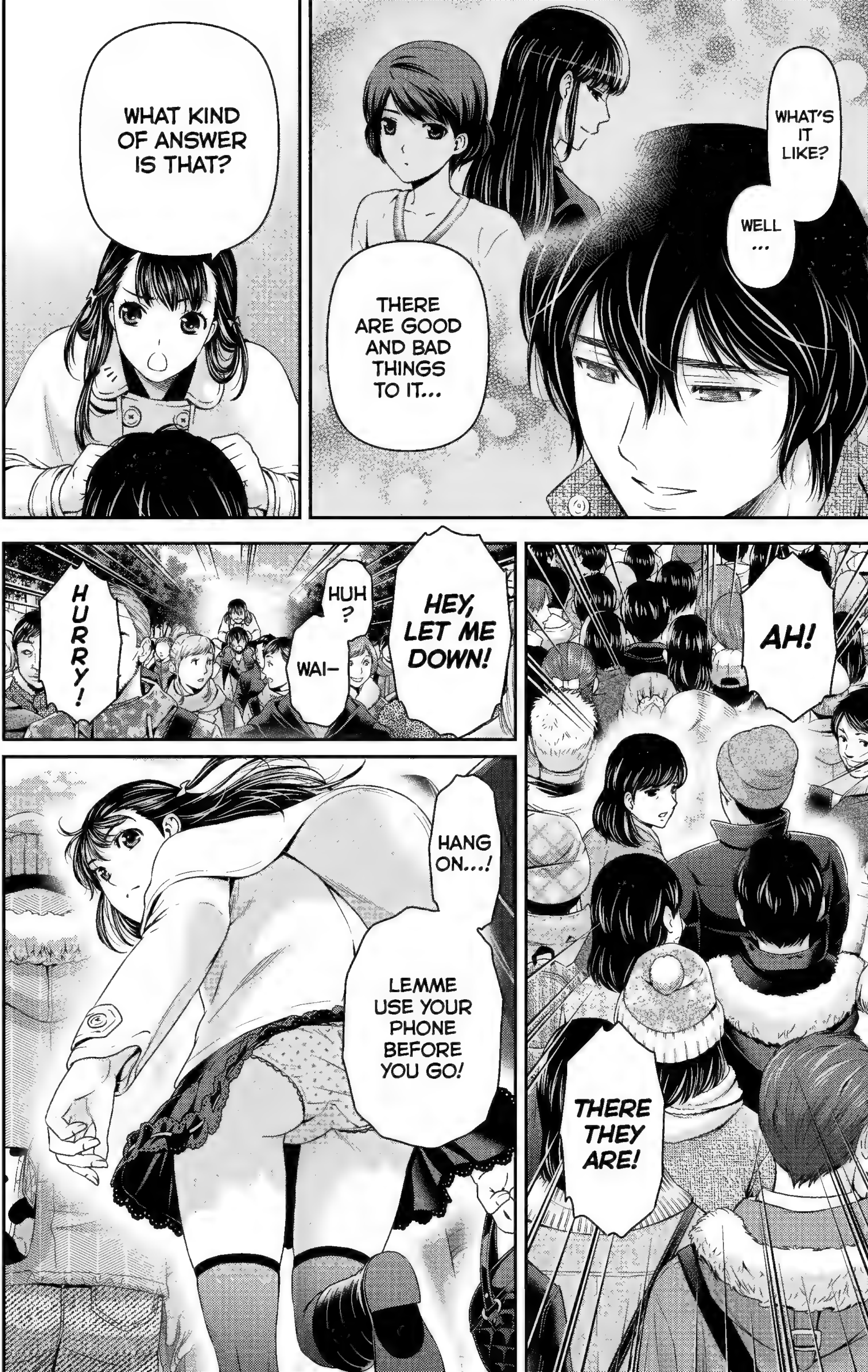

CRAP...
I LOST HER IN THE CROWD.
AND I FORGOT TO BRING MY PHONE WITH ME ON TODAY OF ALL DAYS. I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.
WHAT NOW? SHOULD I GO HOME FIRST?
AHH, BUT DAD AND THE OTHERS WILL PROBABLY LOOK FOR ME...
MRRR
DID YOU LOSE YOUR FRIENDS?

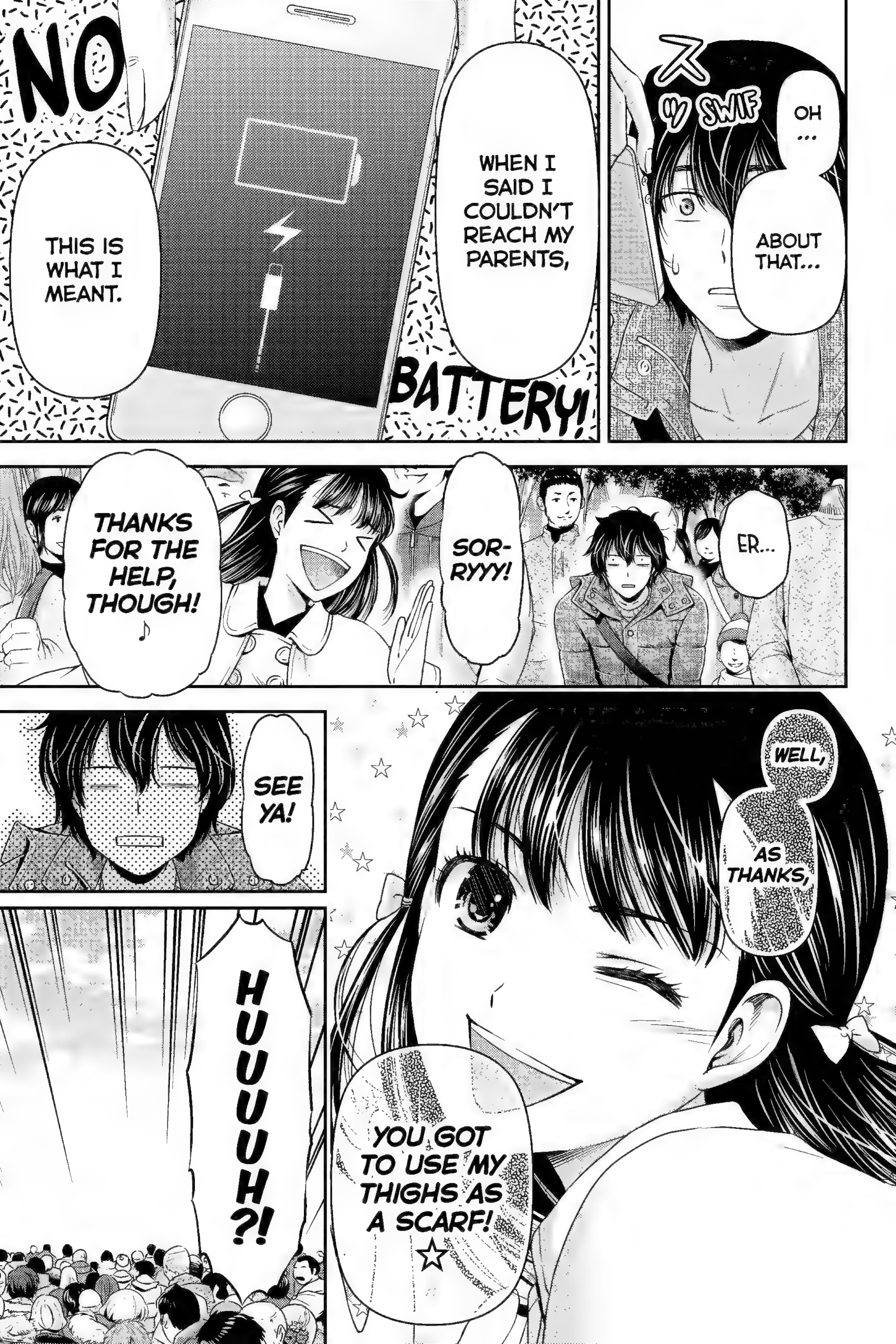

SAME HERE.
I GOT SEPARATED FROM MY PARENTS.
AND I CAN'T REACH MOM'S PHONE...
...!
HEY... EXCUSE ME, BUT...
...CAN I BORROW YOUR PHONE FOR A SEC?
HUH? WHAT'S WITH YOU?
SO-
SORRY, I FORGOT MY PHONE AT HOME...
SURE.
I'LL LEND IT TO YOU SINCE I'M SO NICE,
BUT IN RETURN...

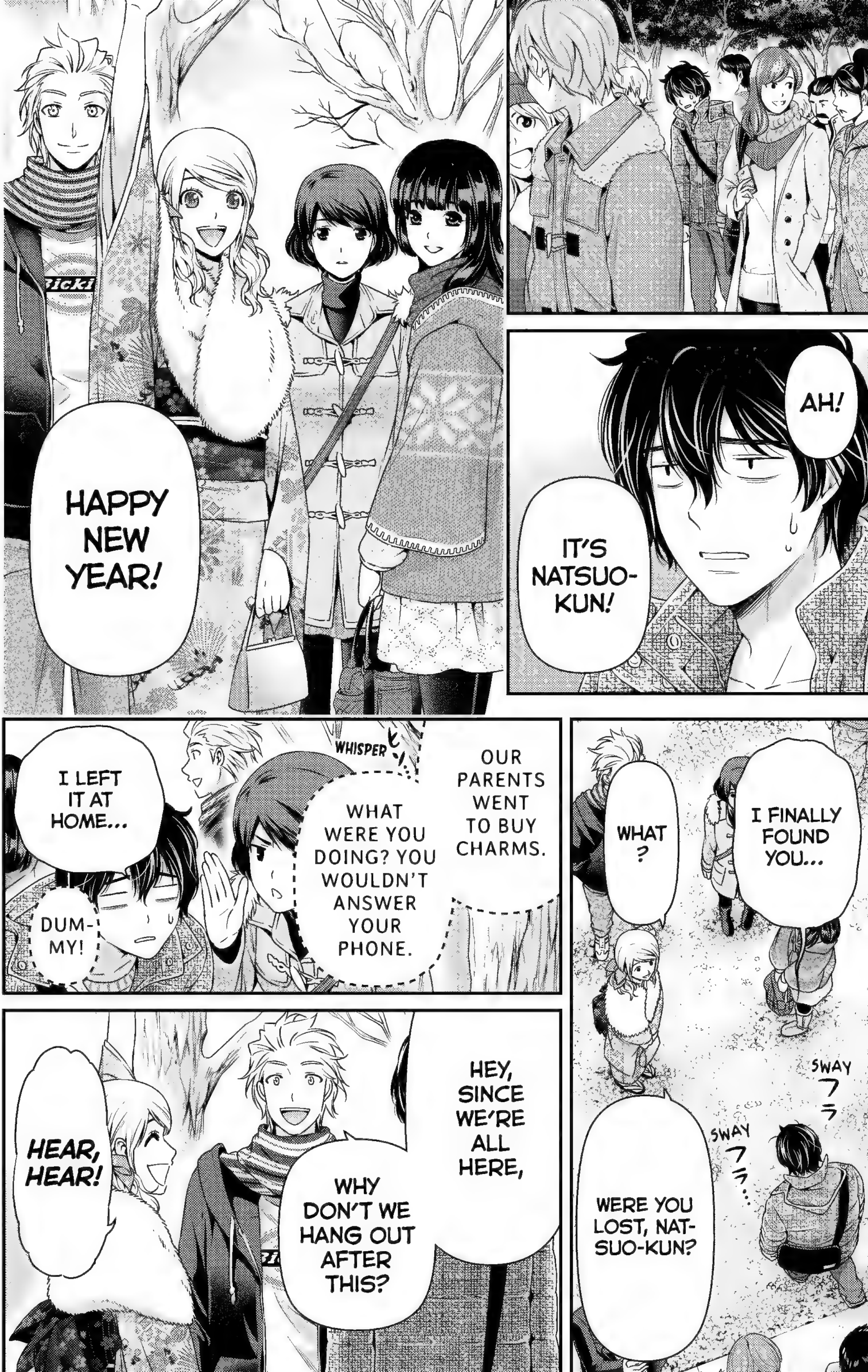

...WILL YOU HELP ME...
...LOOK FOR MY PARENTS?
HMM...
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?
謹賀新年
CAN YOU SEE?
I CAN, BUT...
NO SIGN OF THEM.

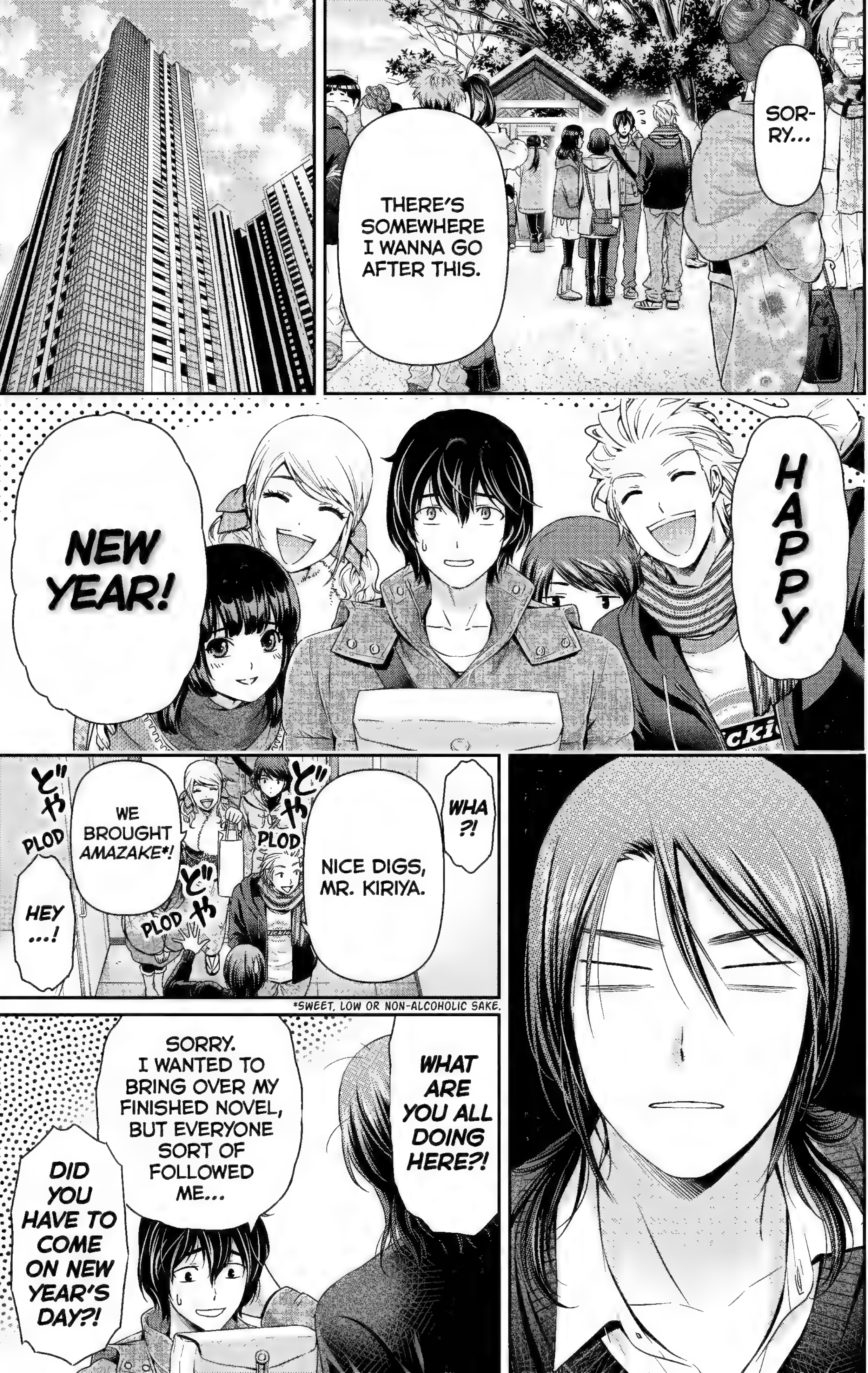

JUST TO CLARIFY,
YOU'RE NOT GETTING TURNED ON BY THIS OR ANYTHING, ARE YOU?
NOPE.
I'M REALLY NOT IN THAT KINDA MOOD RIGHT NOW.
HUH?!
ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY I'M NOT SEXY?!
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
SIGH... ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE SO-CALLED BETA MALES?
THE FUTURE LOOKS DARK FOR BOTH JAPAN AND WOMANKIND.
THE END TIMES ARE UPON US.
WHAT DOES SHE WANT FROM ME?
ANYTHING THAT STANDS OUT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?
LIKE A HAT OR THE COLOR OF THEIR CLOTHES...
STANDS OUT, HUH?
MOM'S WEARING AN ORANGE COAT, SO SHE'S EASY TO FIND,
BUT WHAT WAS FATHER WEARING AGAIN?
I'M PRETTY SURE HE HAS A BLACK DOWN JACKET ON, SO HE MIGHT BE HARDER TO PICK OUT.


...
YOU DON'T USE "DAD?"
HM?
FOR YOUR FATHER.
OH.
MY MOM GOT REMARRIED,
SO I'M NOT RELATED TO FATHER.
I DON'T HATE HIM OR ANYTHING,
IT'S JUST THAT MY BIRTH FATHER IS "DAD" TO ME.
...
WHAT? DO YOU THINK YOU ASKED SOMETHING YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE?
NO...I WAS JUST THINKING WE HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON.
ARE YOU PART OF THE REMARRIAGE BRIGADE, TOO?
MY PARENTS ARE...
NEAT! WHICH SIDE ARE YOU FROM?
DAD'S.
SO, YOU GOT A NEW MOTHER, HUH?
DID YOU GET SIBLINGS?
YUP.
LUCKY! I'M AN ONLY CHILD, SO I'M SUPER JEALOUS! WHAT'S IT LIKE TO HAVE NEW SIBLINGS?

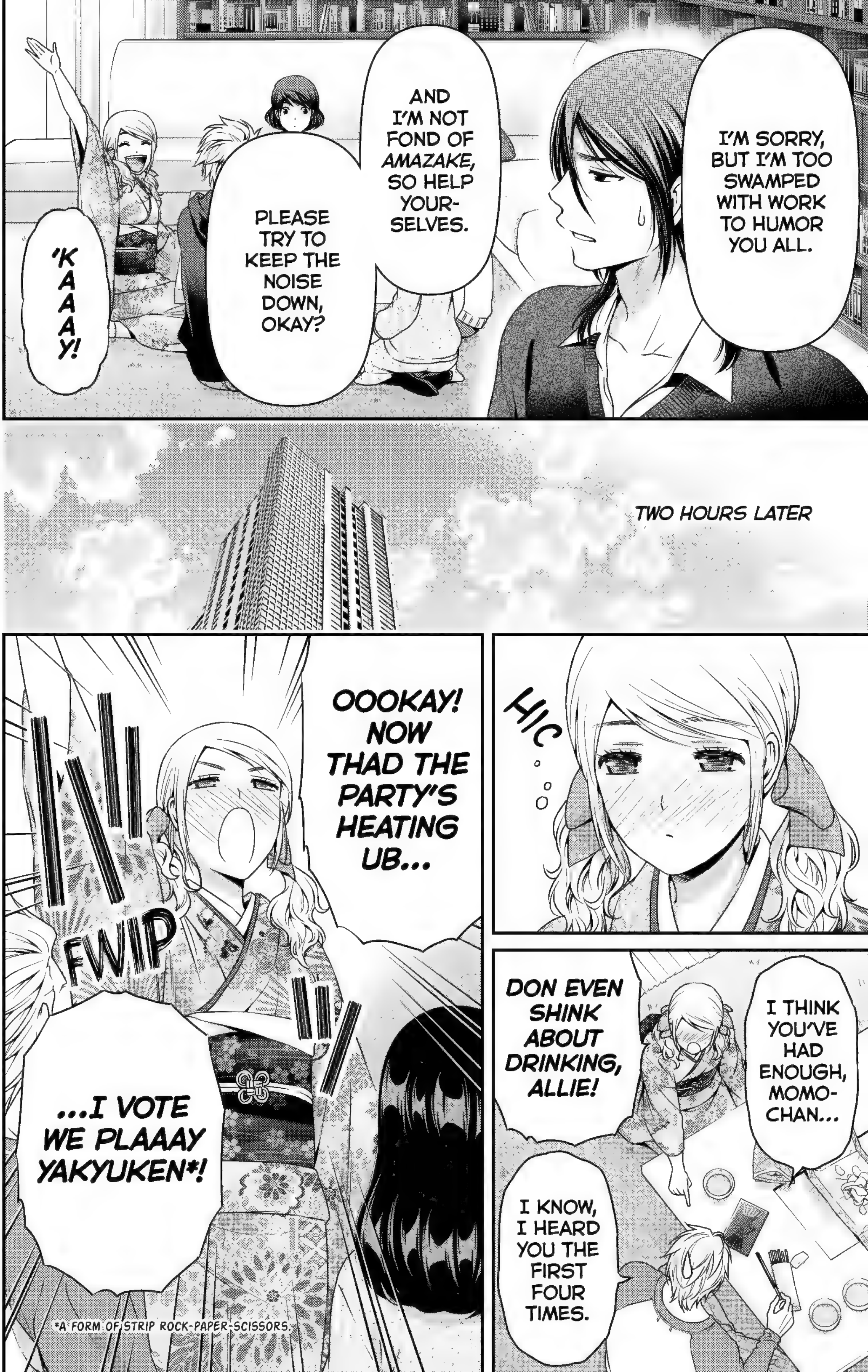

WHAT'S IT LIKE?
WELL...
THERE ARE GOOD AND BAD THINGS TO IT...
WHAT KIND OF ANSWER IS THAT?
AH!
THERE THEY ARE!
HEY, LET ME DOWN!
HUH?
WAI-
HURRY!
HANG ON...!
LEMME USE YOUR PHONE BEFORE YOU GO!


スッ SWIF
OH ...
ABOUT THAT...
WHEN I SAID I COULDN'T REACH MY PARENTS,
THIS IS WHAT I MEANT.
NO BATTERY!
ER...
SOR-RYYY!
THANKS FOR THE HELP, THOUGH! ♪
WELL,
AS THANKS,
YOU GOT TO USE MY THIGHS AS A SCARF! ☆
SEE YA!
HUUUUUH?!

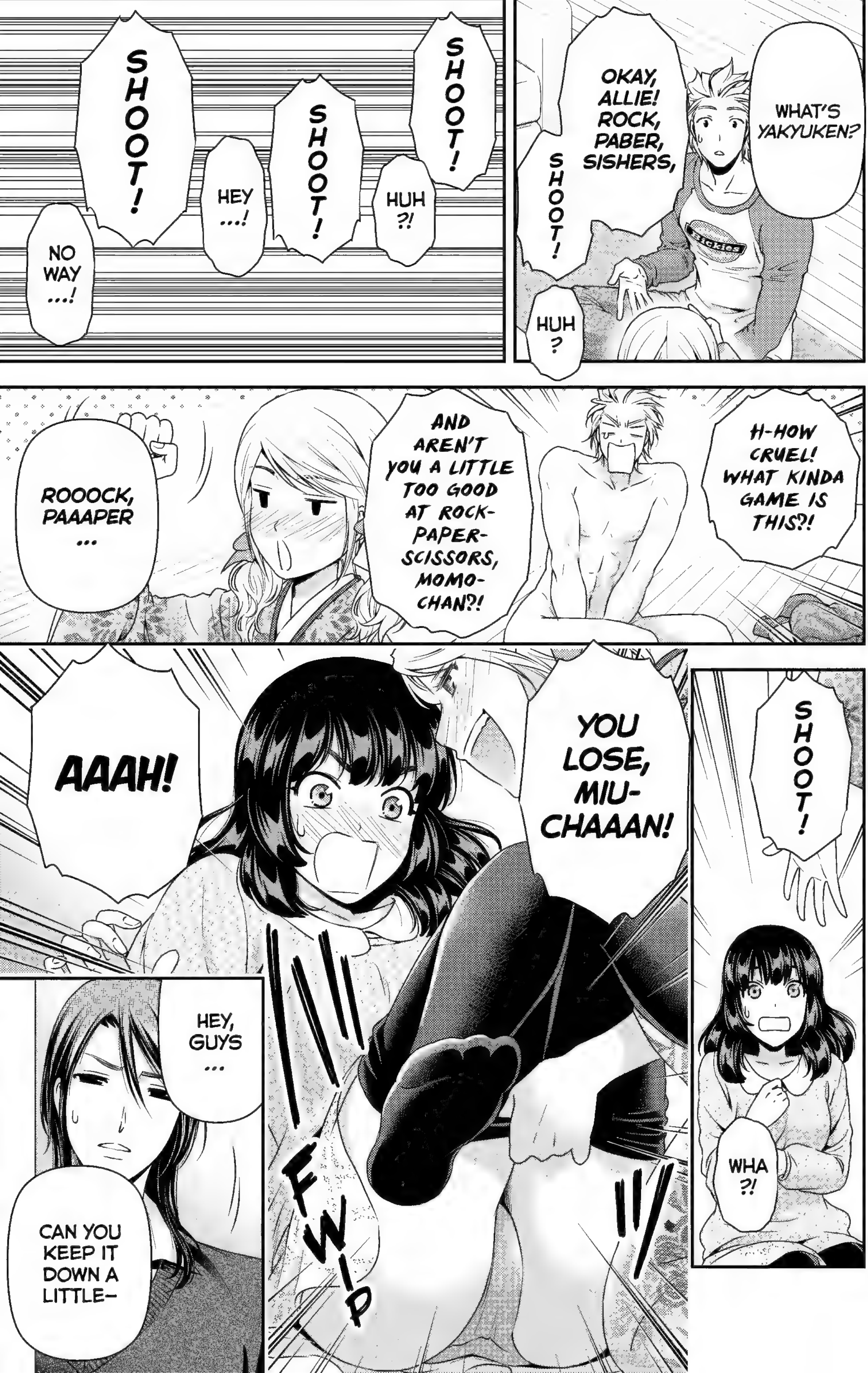

AH!
IT'S NATSUO-KUN!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
I FINALLY FOUND YOU...
WHAT?
SWAY フラ
SWAY フラ...
WERE YOU LOST, NATSUO-KUN?
OUR PARENTS WENT TO BUY CHARMS.
WHISPER
WHAT WERE YOU DOING? YOU WOULDN'T ANSWER YOUR PHONE.
I LEFT IT AT HOME...
DUMMY!
HEY, SINCE WE'RE ALL HERE,
WHY DON'T WE HANG OUT AFTER THIS?
HEAR, HEAR!

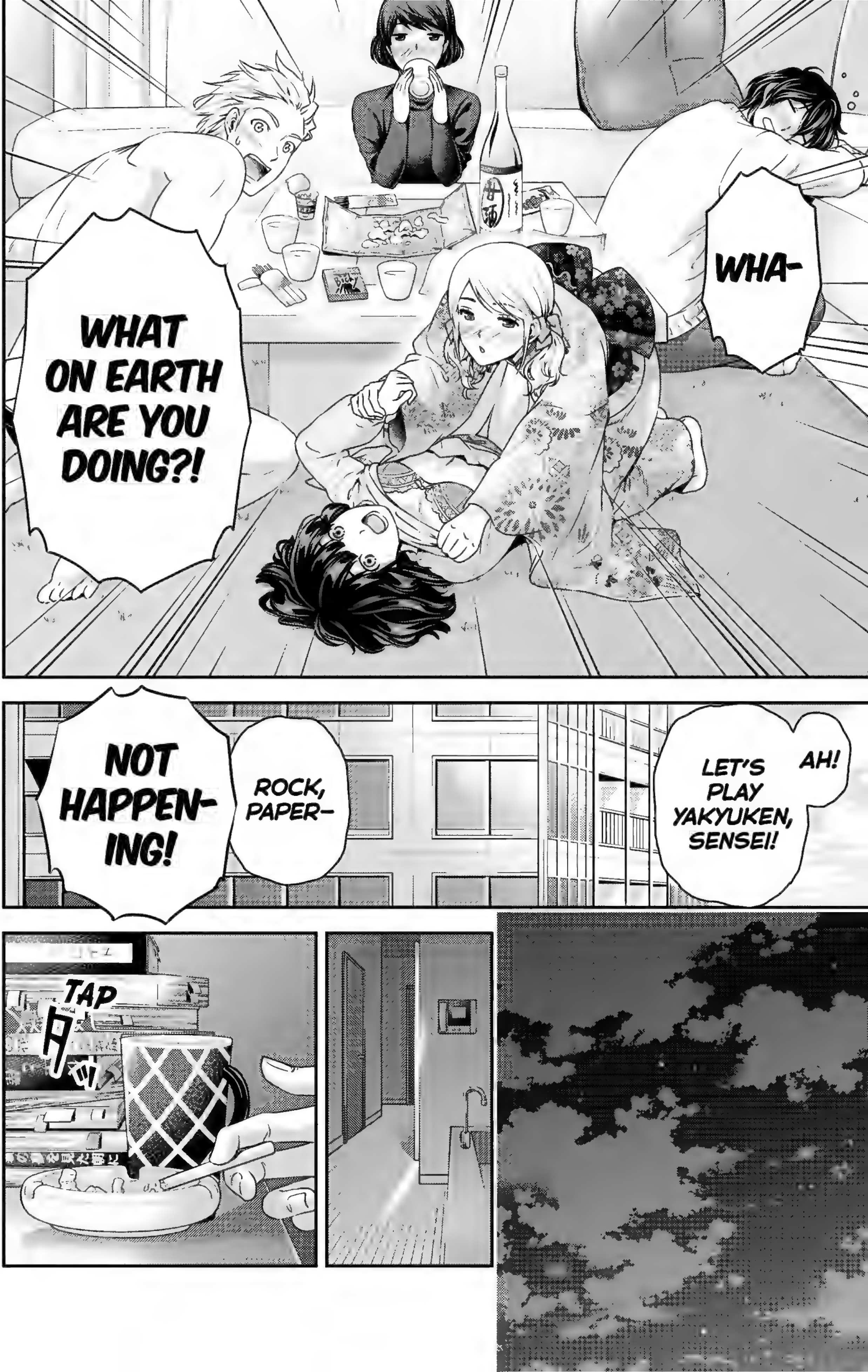

SOR-RY...
THERE'S SOMEWHERE I WANNA GO AFTER THIS.
HAPPY
NEW YEAR!
WHA?!
NICE DIGS, MR. KIRIYA.
どや
PLOD
どや
PLOD
WE BROUGHT AMAZAKE*!
どや
PLOD
HEY...!
WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING HERE?!
SORRY. I WANTED TO BRING OVER MY FINISHED NOVEL, BUT EVERYONE SORT OF FOLLOWED ME...
DID YOU HAVE TO COME ON NEW YEAR'S DAY?!

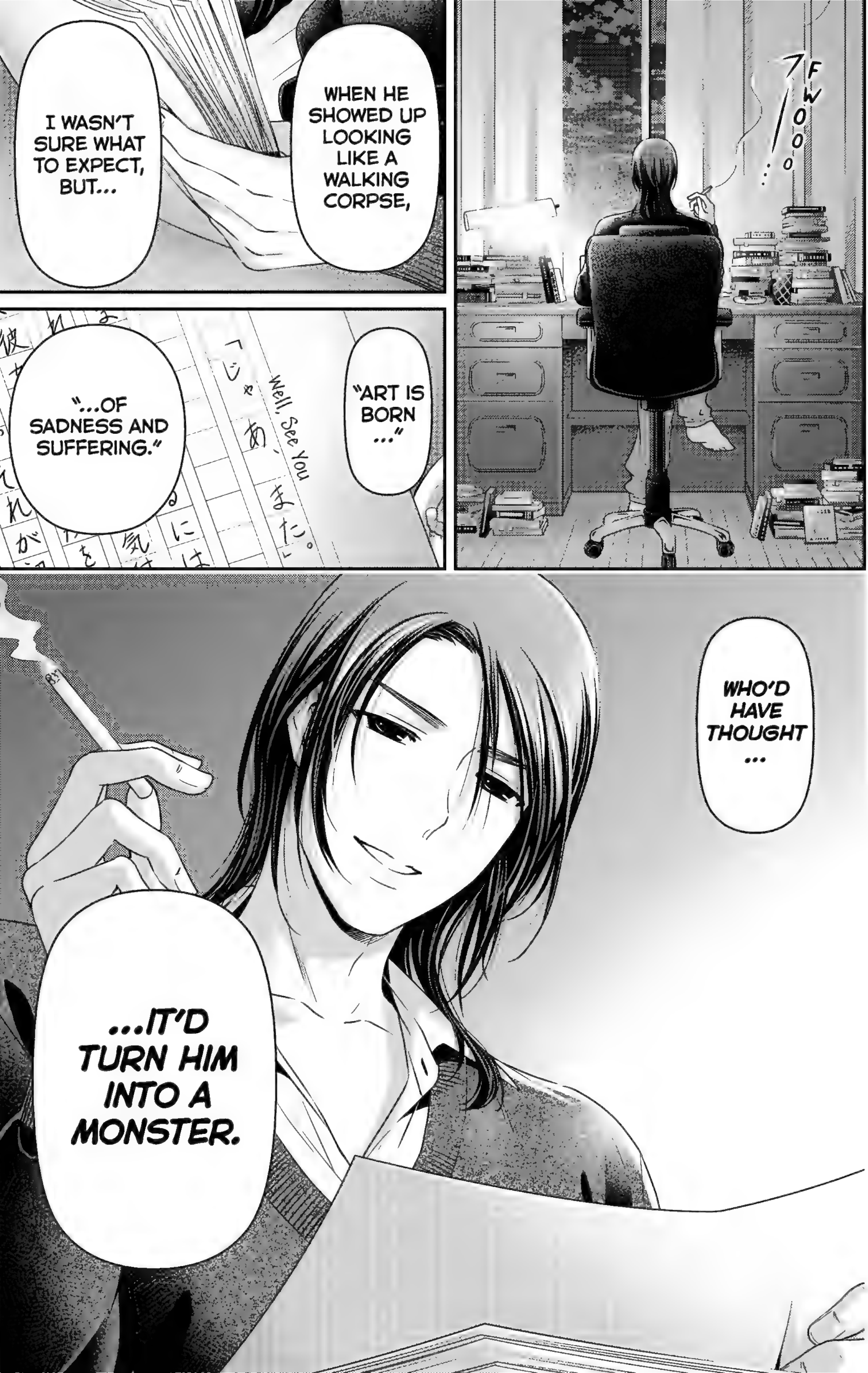
*SWEET, LOW OR NON-ALCOHOLIC SAKE.


I'M SORRY, BUT I'M TOO SWAMPED WITH WORK TO HUMOR YOU ALL.
AND I'M NOT FOND OF *AMAZAKE*, SO HELP YOURSELVES.
PLEASE TRY TO KEEP THE NOISE DOWN, OKAY?
'KAAAAY!
TWO HOURS LATER
HIC
OOOKAY! NOW THAD THE PARTY'S HEATING UB...
FWIP
...I VOTE WE PLAAAY YAKYUKEN*!
I THINK YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH, MOMO-CHAN...
DON EVEN SHINK ABOUT DRINKING, ALLIE!
I KNOW, I HEARD YOU THE FIRST FOUR TIMES.

*A FORM OF STRIP ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS.

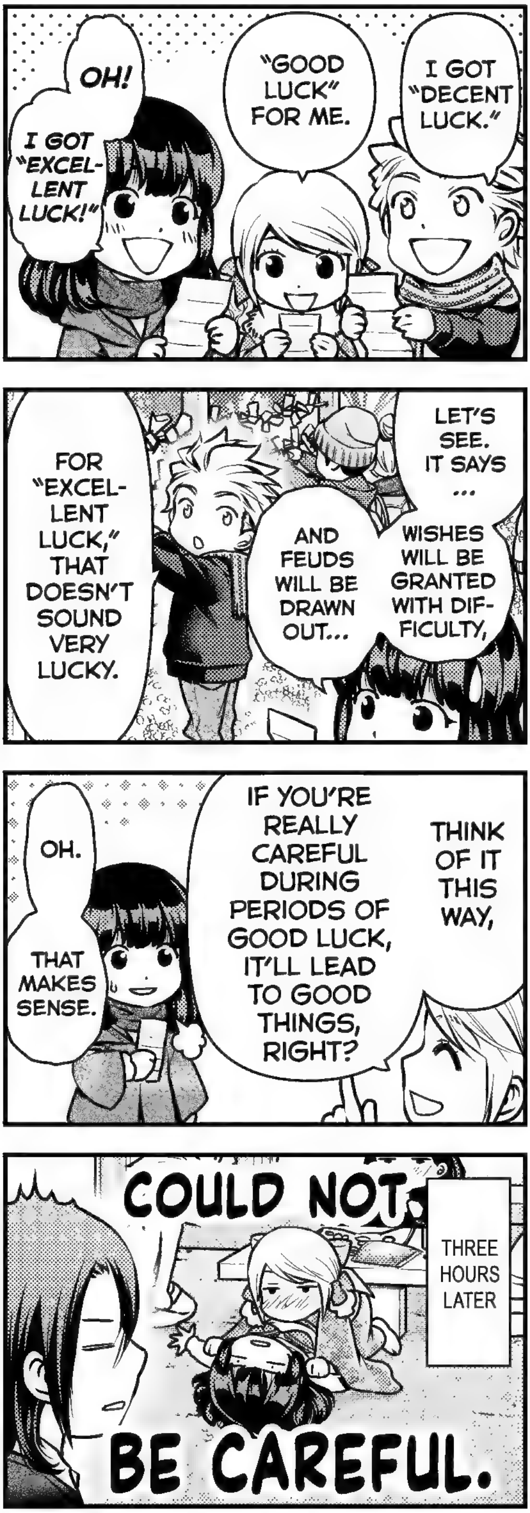

WHAT'S YAKYUKEN?
OKAY, ALLIE! ROCK, PABER, SISHERS,
SHOOT!
HUH?
SHOOT!
HUH?!
SHOOT!
HEY...!
SHOOT!
NO WAY...!
H-HOW CRUEL! WHAT KINDA GAME IS THIS?!
AND AREN'T YOU A LITTLE TOO GOOD AT ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS, MOMO-CHAN?!
ROOOCK, PAAAPER...
SHOOT!
WHA?!
YOU LOSE, MIU-CHAAAN!
AAAH!
FWIP
HEY, GUYS...
CAN YOU KEEP IT DOWN A LITTLE-


WHA-
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?!
AH!
LET'S PLAY YAKYUKEN, SENSEI!
ROCK, PAPER—
NOT HAPPENING!
TAP
タッ

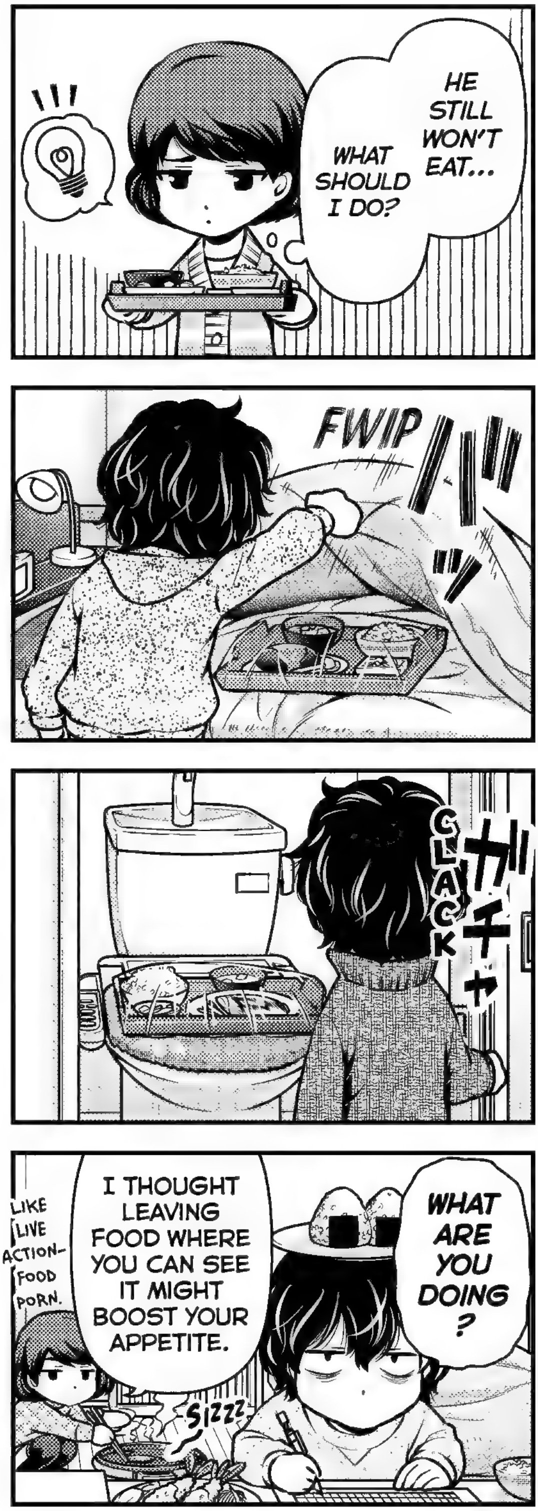

FWOOO...
WHEN HE SHOWED UP LOOKING LIKE A WALKING CORPSE,
I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO EXPECT, BUT...
「じゃあ、また。」
Well, See You
"ART IS BORN..."
"...OF SADNESS AND SUFFERING."
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT...
...IT'D TURN HIM INTO A MONSTER.

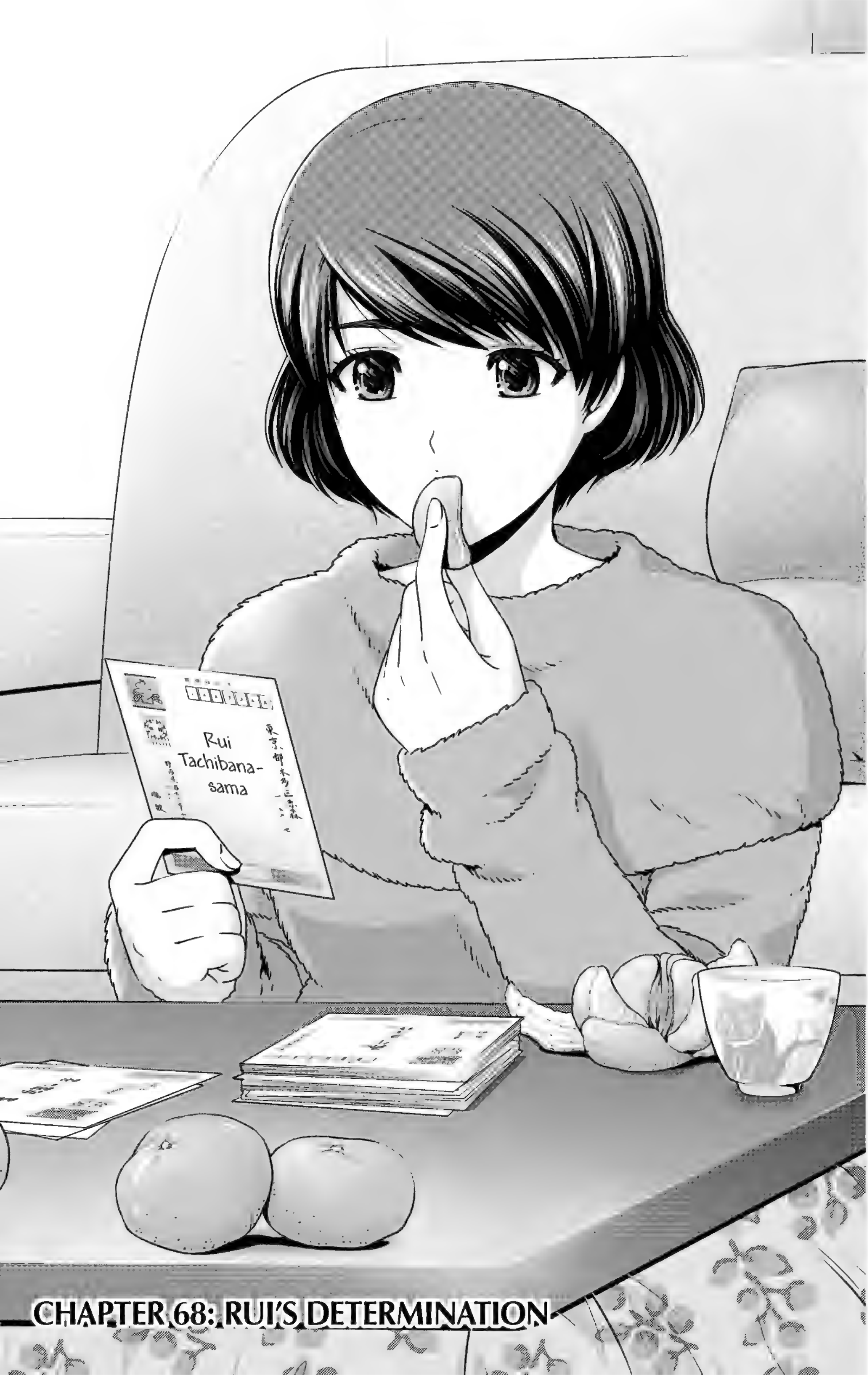
DOMEGIRL 4-PANEL THEATER

FORTUNE

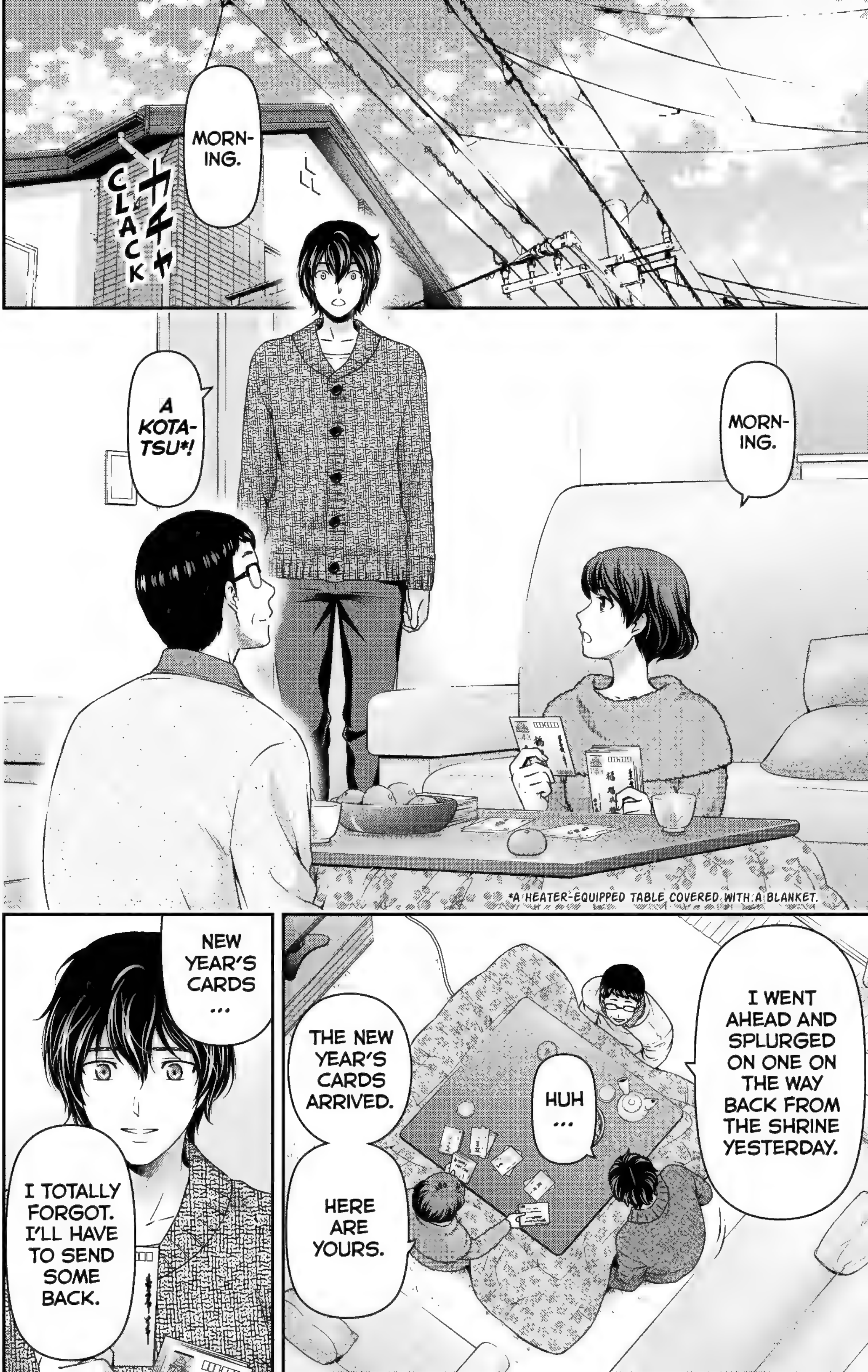

OH!
I GOT "EXCELLENT LUCK!"
"GOOD LUCK" FOR ME.
I GOT "DECENT LUCK."
LET'S SEE. IT SAYS ...
WISHES WILL BE GRANTED WITH DIFFICULTY,
AND FEUDS WILL BE DRAWN OUT...
FOR "EXCELLENT LUCK," THAT DOESN'T SOUND VERY LUCKY.
THINK OF IT THIS WAY,
IF YOU'RE REALLY CAREFUL DURING PERIODS OF GOOD LUCK, IT'LL LEAD TO GOOD THINGS, RIGHT?
OH.
THAT MAKES SENSE.
THREE HOURS LATER
COULD NOT BE CAREFUL.

APPETITE

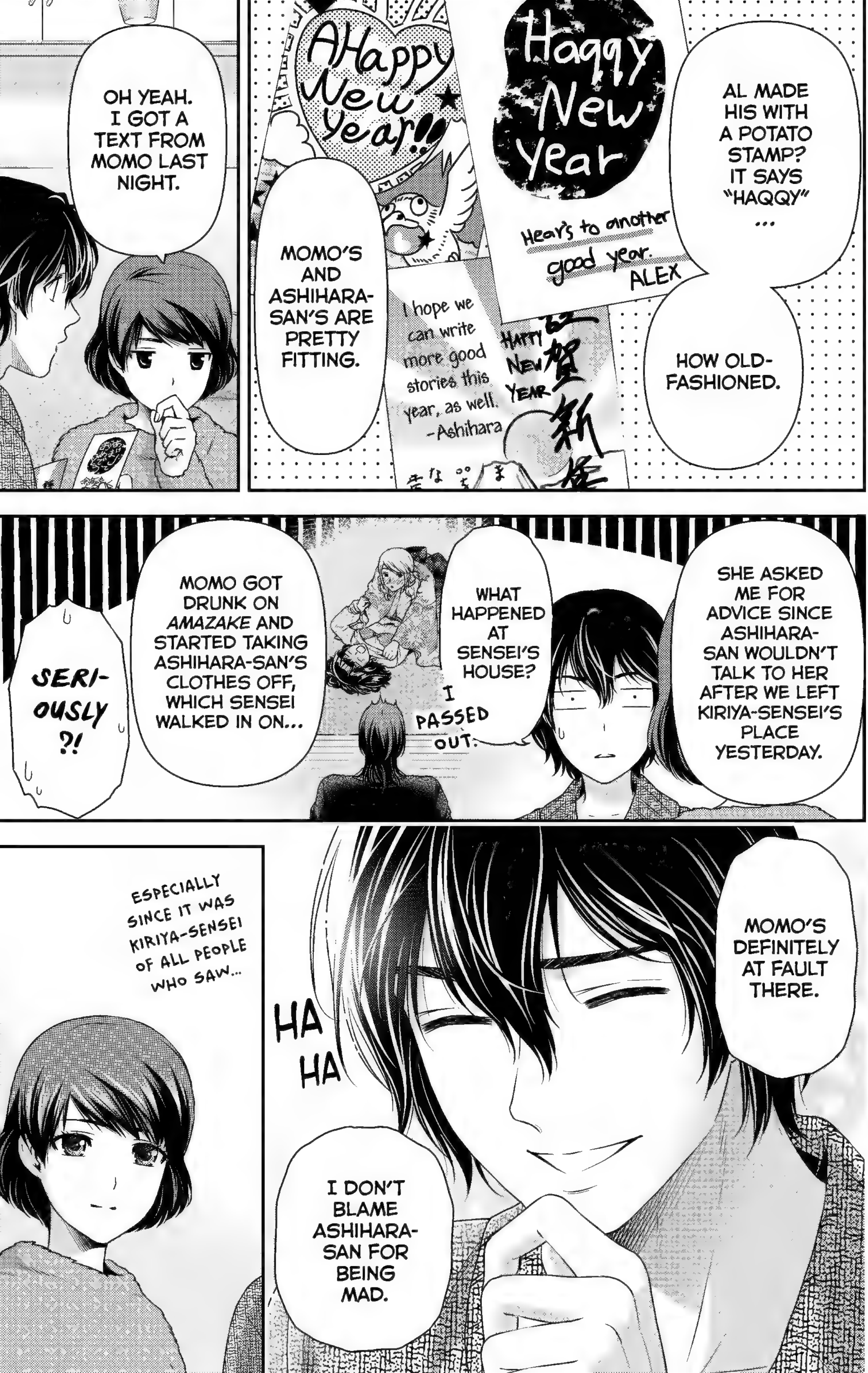

HE STILL WON'T EAT...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
FWIP
CLACK
ガチャ
LIKE LIVE ACTION-FOOD PORN.
I THOUGHT LEAVING FOOD WHERE YOU CAN SEE IT MIGHT BOOST YOUR APPETITE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SIZZZ

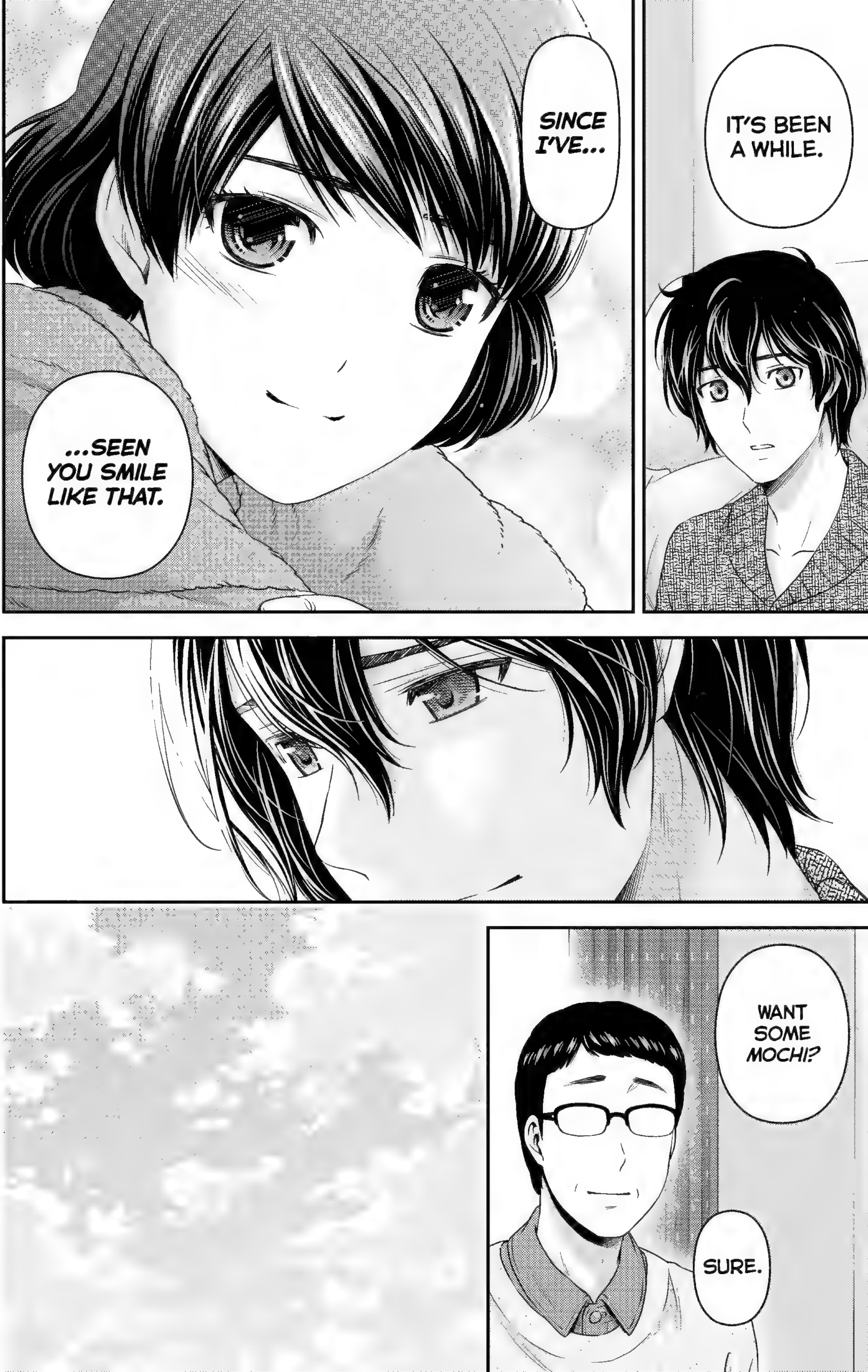

Rui
Tachibana-
sama

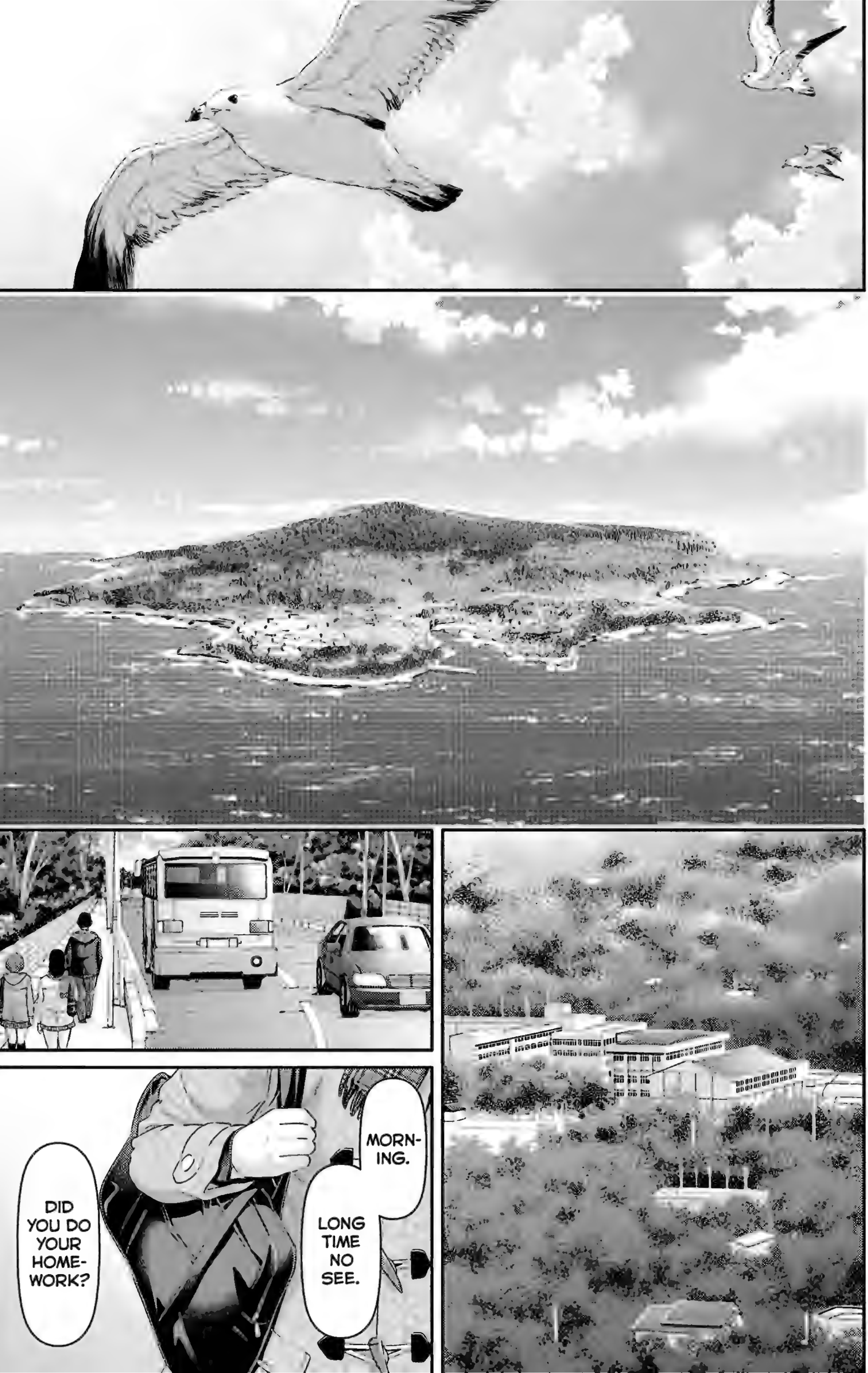
CHAPTER 68: RUI'S DETERMINATION

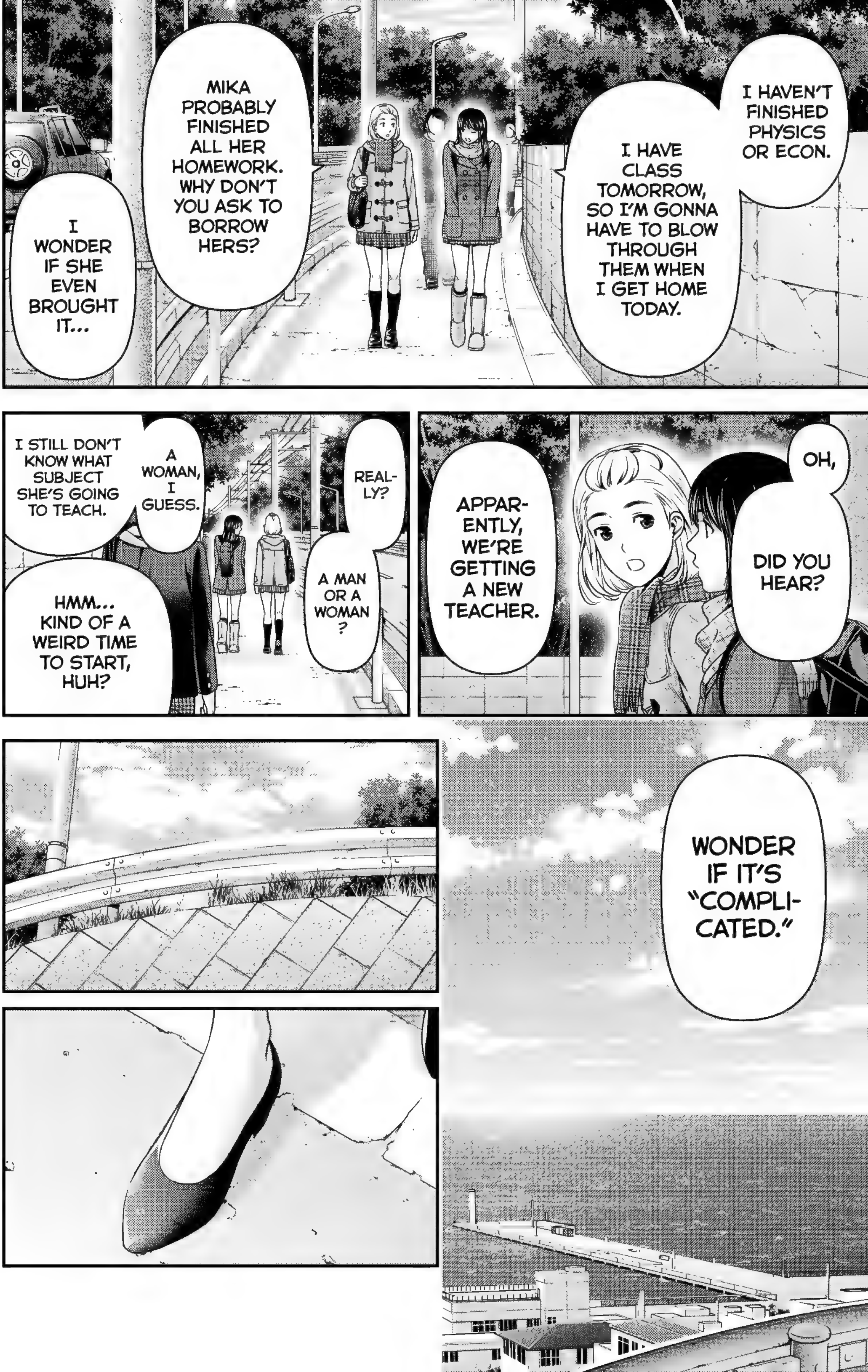

MORNING.
CLACK
カチャ
MORNING.
A KOTATSU*!
I WENT AHEAD AND SPLURGED ON ONE ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE SHRINE YESTERDAY.
HUH...
THE NEW YEAR'S CARDS ARRIVED.
HERE ARE YOURS.
NEW YEAR'S CARDS...
I TOTALLY FORGOT. I'LL HAVE TO SEND SOME BACK.

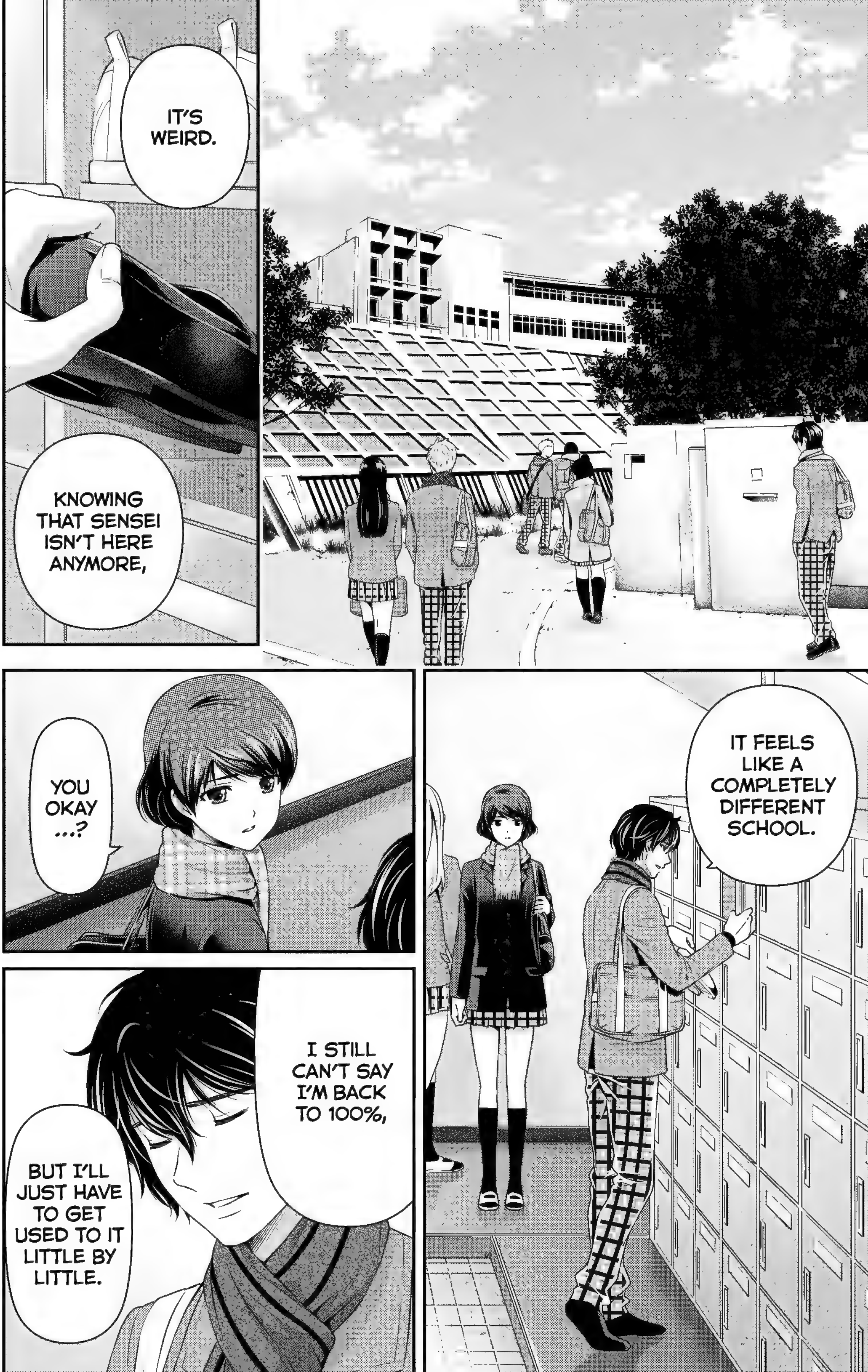
*A HEATER-EQUIPPED TABLE COVERED WITH A BLANKET.

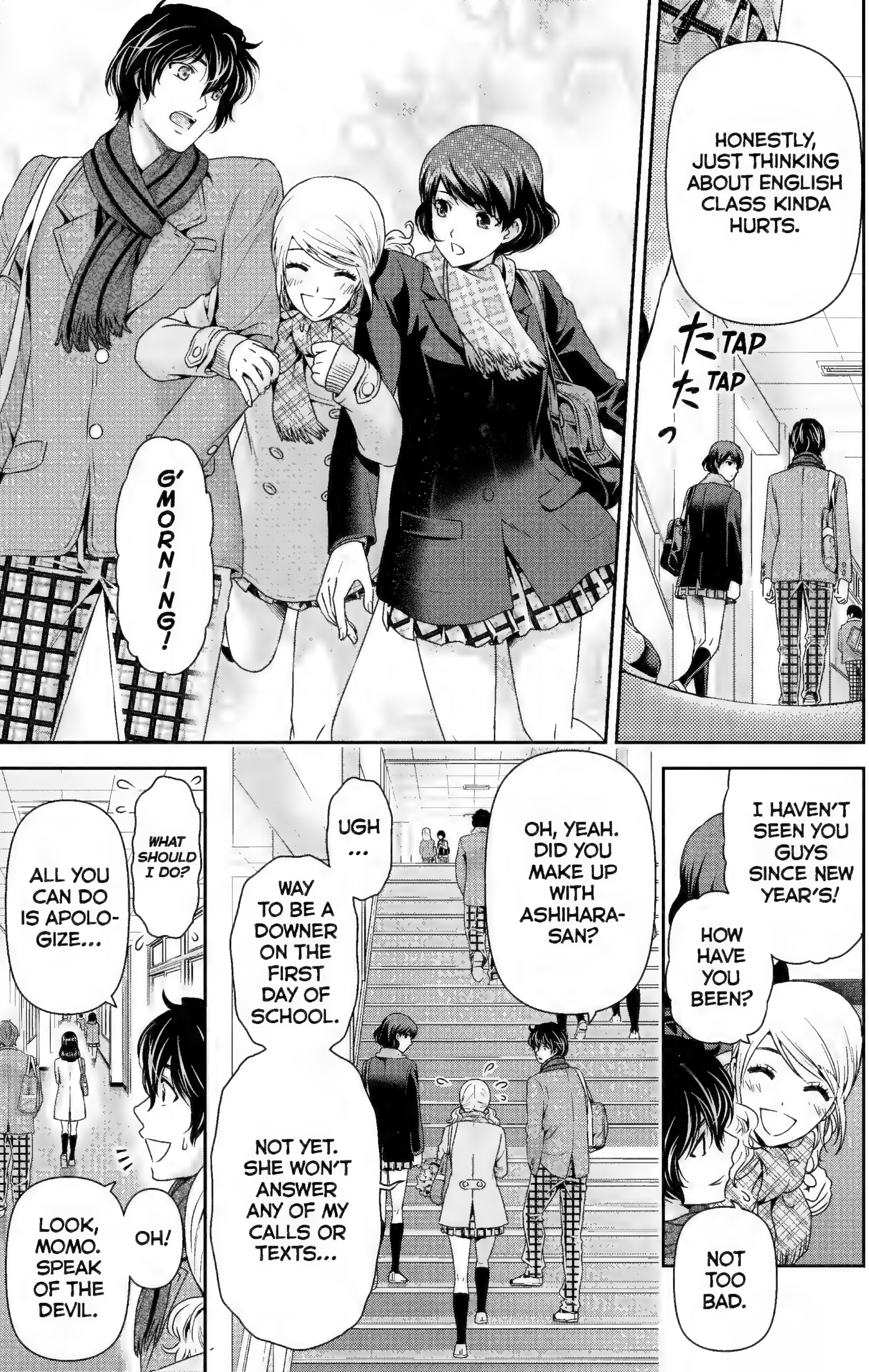

Haqqy New Year
Hear's to another good year. ALEX
AL MADE HIS WITH A POTATO STAMP? IT SAYS "HAQQY"...
HOW OLD-FASHIONED.
A Happy New Year!!
HAPPY NEW YEAR
賀新
I hope we can write more good stories this year, as well. -Ashihara
MOMO'S AND ASHIHARA-SAN'S ARE PRETTY FITTING.
OH YEAH. I GOT A TEXT FROM MOMO LAST NIGHT.
SHE ASKED ME FOR ADVICE SINCE ASHIHARA-SAN WOULDN'T TALK TO HER AFTER WE LEFT KIRIYA-SENSEI'S PLACE YESTERDAY.
WHAT HAPPENED AT SENSEI'S HOUSE?
I PASSED OUT.
MOMO GOT DRUNK ON *AMAZAKE* AND STARTED TAKING ASHIHARA-SAN'S CLOTHES OFF, WHICH SENSEI WALKED IN ON...
SERIOUSLY?!
MOMO'S DEFINITELY AT FAULT THERE.
HA HA
I DON'T BLAME ASHIHARA-SAN FOR BEING MAD.
ESPECIALLY SINCE IT WAS KIRIYA-SENSEI OF ALL PEOPLE WHO SAW...

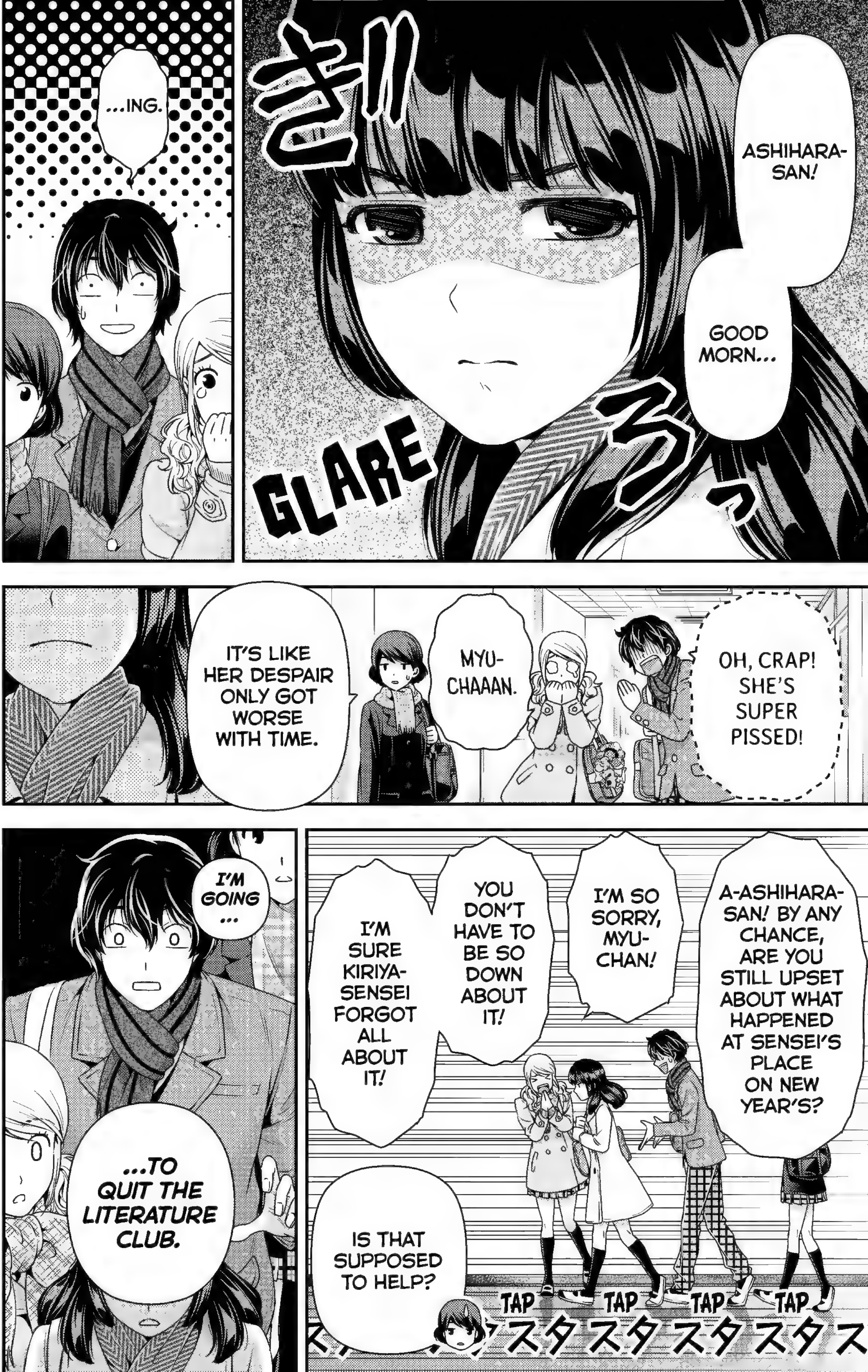

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
SINCE I'VE...
...SEEN YOU SMILE LIKE THAT.
WANT SOME MOCHI?
SURE.

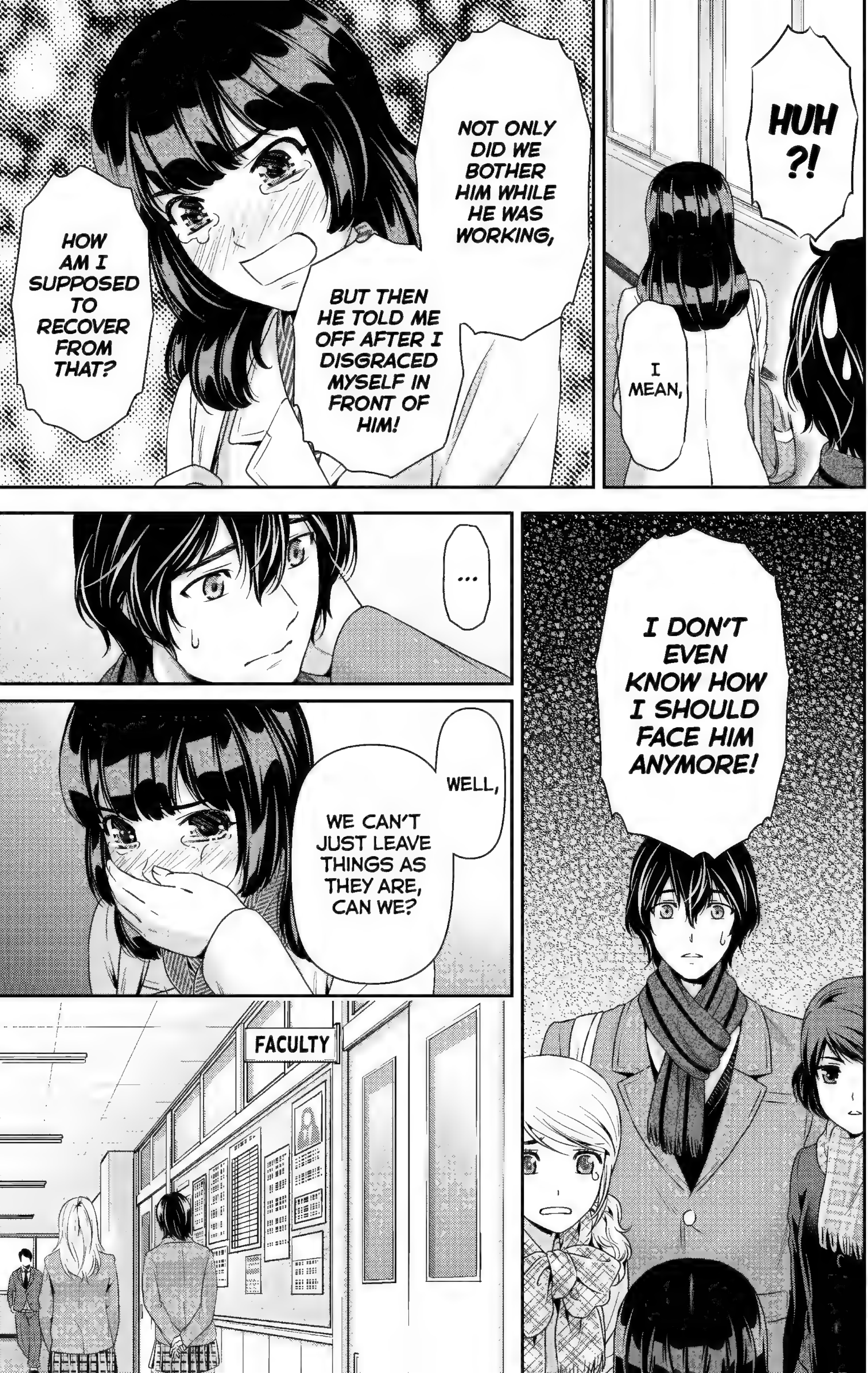

MORNING.
LONG TIME NO SEE.
DID YOU DO YOUR HOMEWORK?

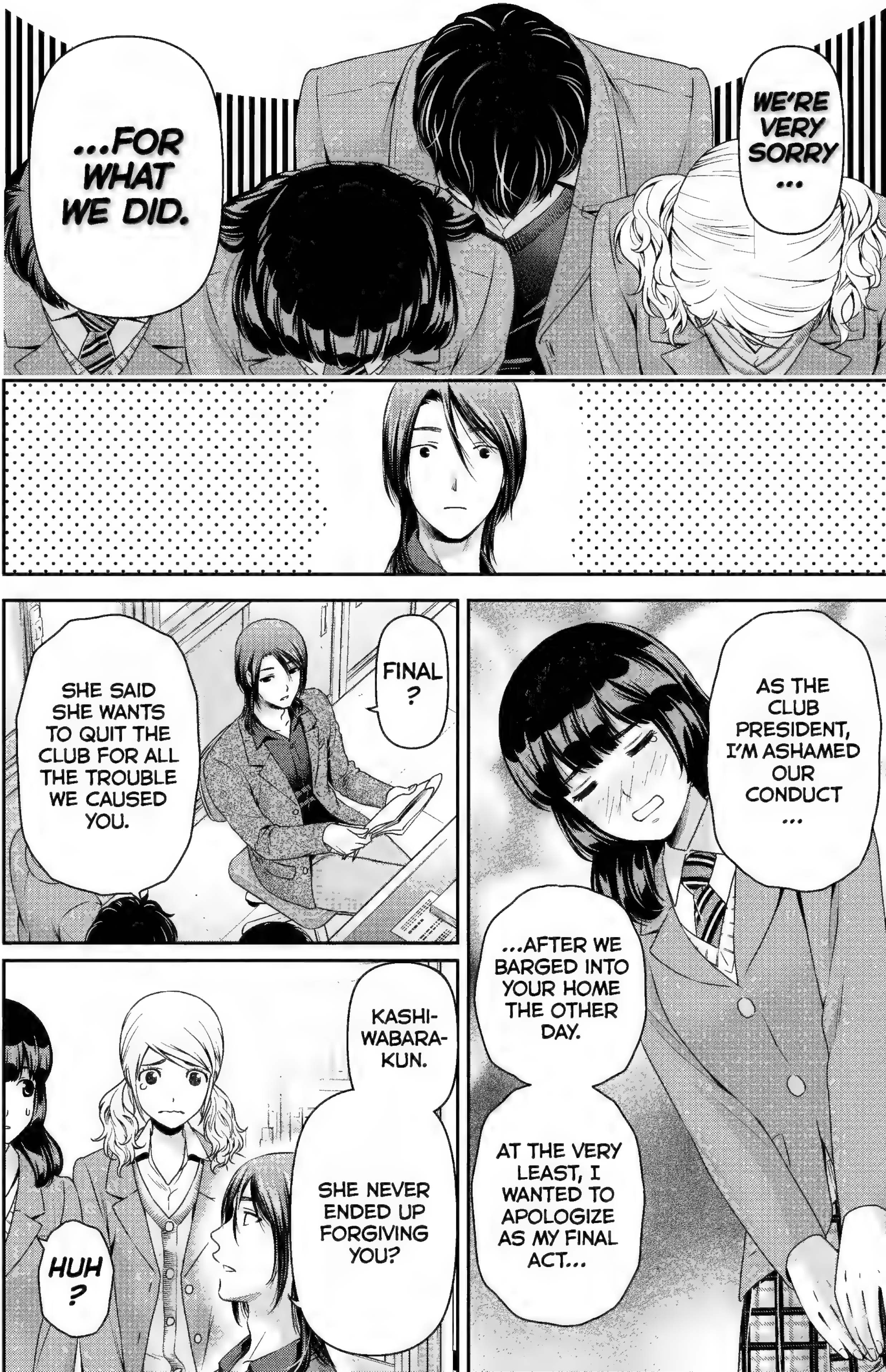

I HAVEN'T FINISHED PHYSICS OR ECON.
I HAVE CLASS TOMORROW, SO I'M GONNA HAVE TO BLOW THROUGH THEM WHEN I GET HOME TODAY.
MIKA PROBABLY FINISHED ALL HER HOMEWORK. WHY DON'T YOU ASK TO BORROW HERS?
I WONDER IF SHE EVEN BROUGHT IT...
OH,
DID YOU HEAR?
APPARENTLY, WE'RE GETTING A NEW TEACHER.
REALLY?
A MAN OR A WOMAN?
A WOMAN, I GUESS.
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT SUBJECT SHE'S GOING TO TEACH.
HMM... KIND OF A WEIRD TIME TO START, HUH?
WONDER IF IT'S "COMPLICATED."

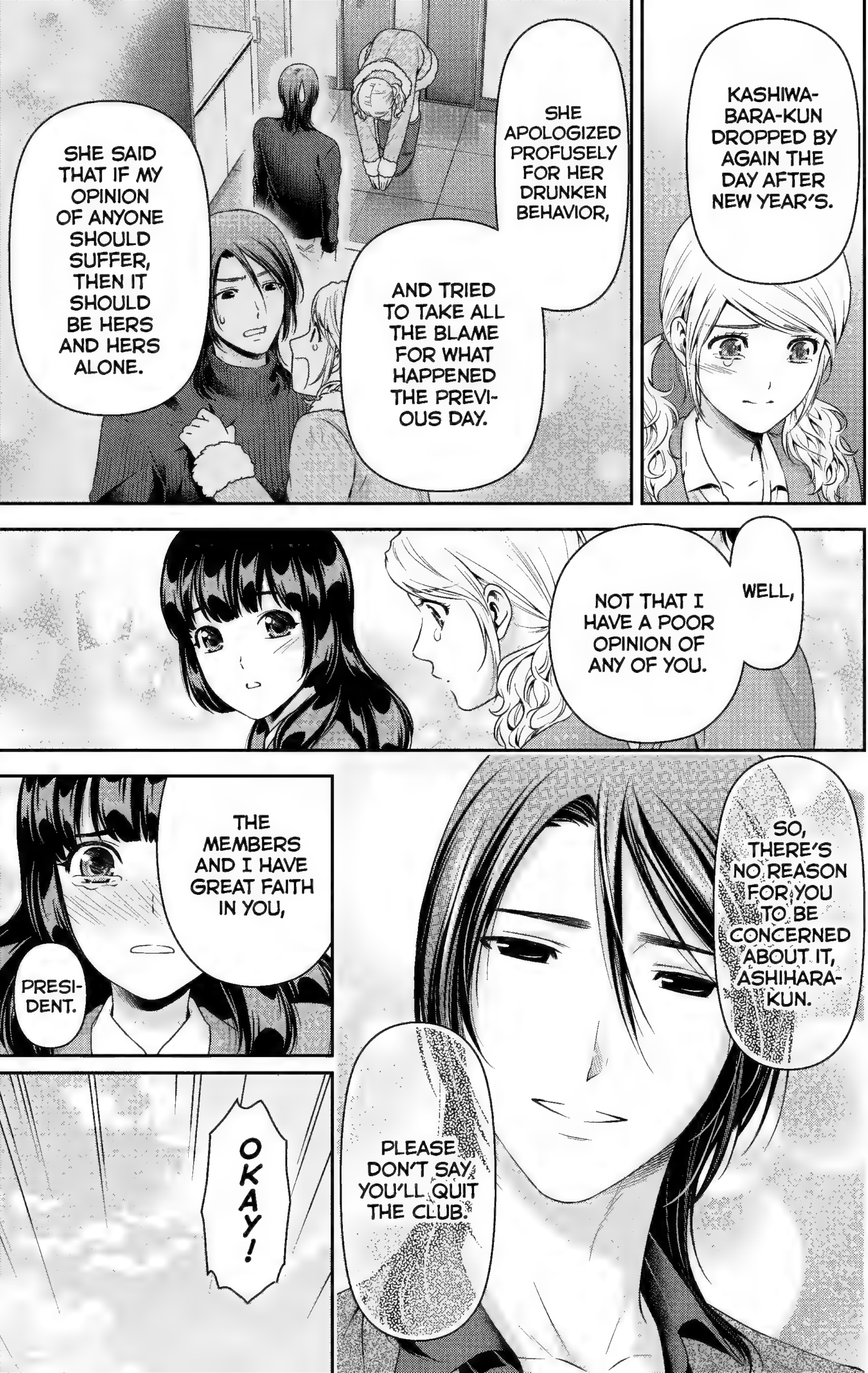

IT'S WEIRD.
KNOWING THAT SENSEI ISN'T HERE ANYMORE,
IT FEELS LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SCHOOL.
YOU OKAY ...?
I STILL CAN'T SAY I'M BACK TO 100%,
BUT I'LL JUST HAVE TO GET USED TO IT LITTLE BY LITTLE.

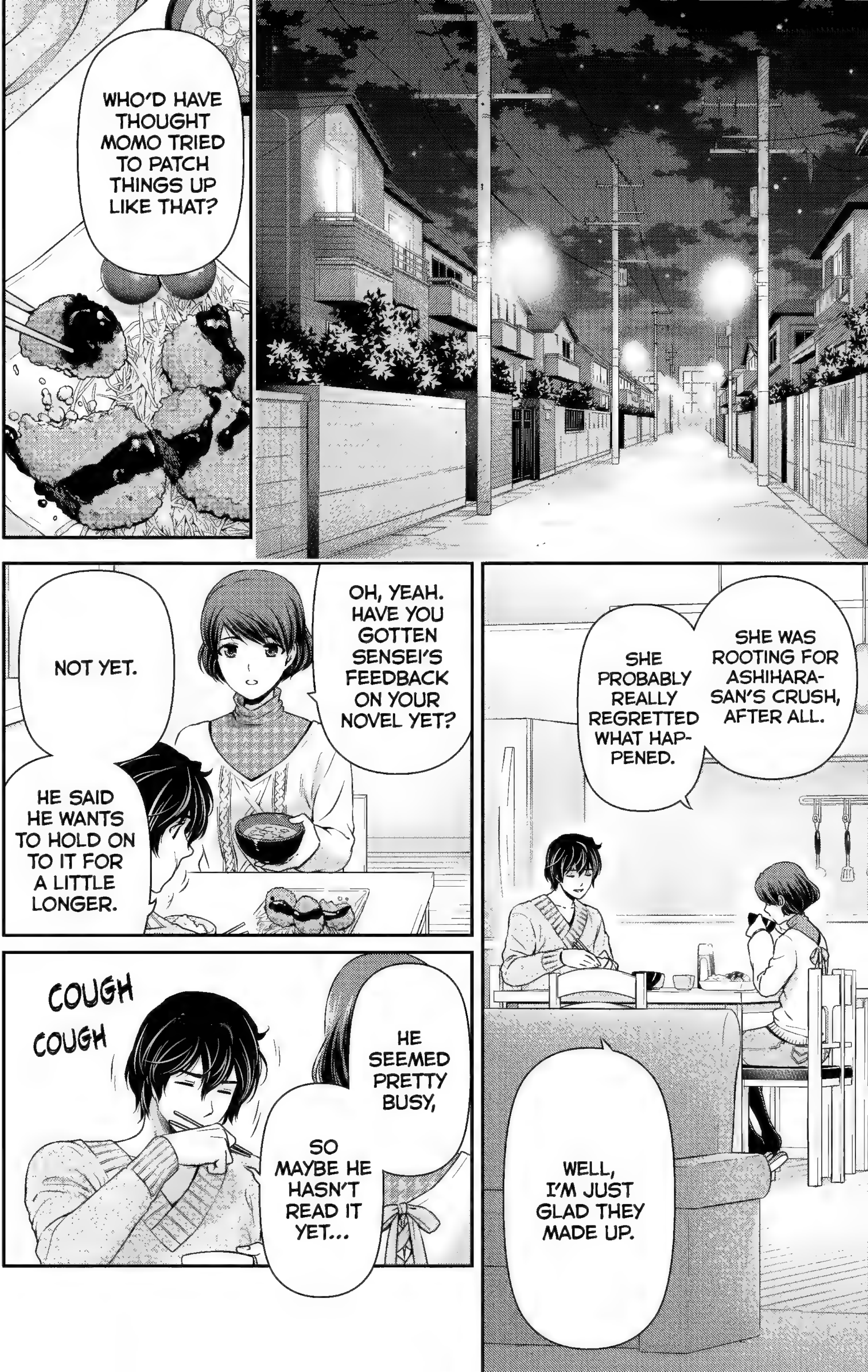

HONESTLY, JUST THINKING ABOUT ENGLISH CLASS KINDA HURTS.
たたっ
TAP TAP
G'MORNING!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU GUYS SINCE NEW YEAR'S!
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
NOT TOO BAD.
OH, YEAH. DID YOU MAKE UP WITH ASHIHARA-SAN?
UGH...
WAY TO BE A DOWNER ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.
NOT YET. SHE WON'T ANSWER ANY OF MY CALLS OR TEXTS...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
ALL YOU CAN DO IS APOLOGIZE...
OH!
LOOK, MOMO. SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.

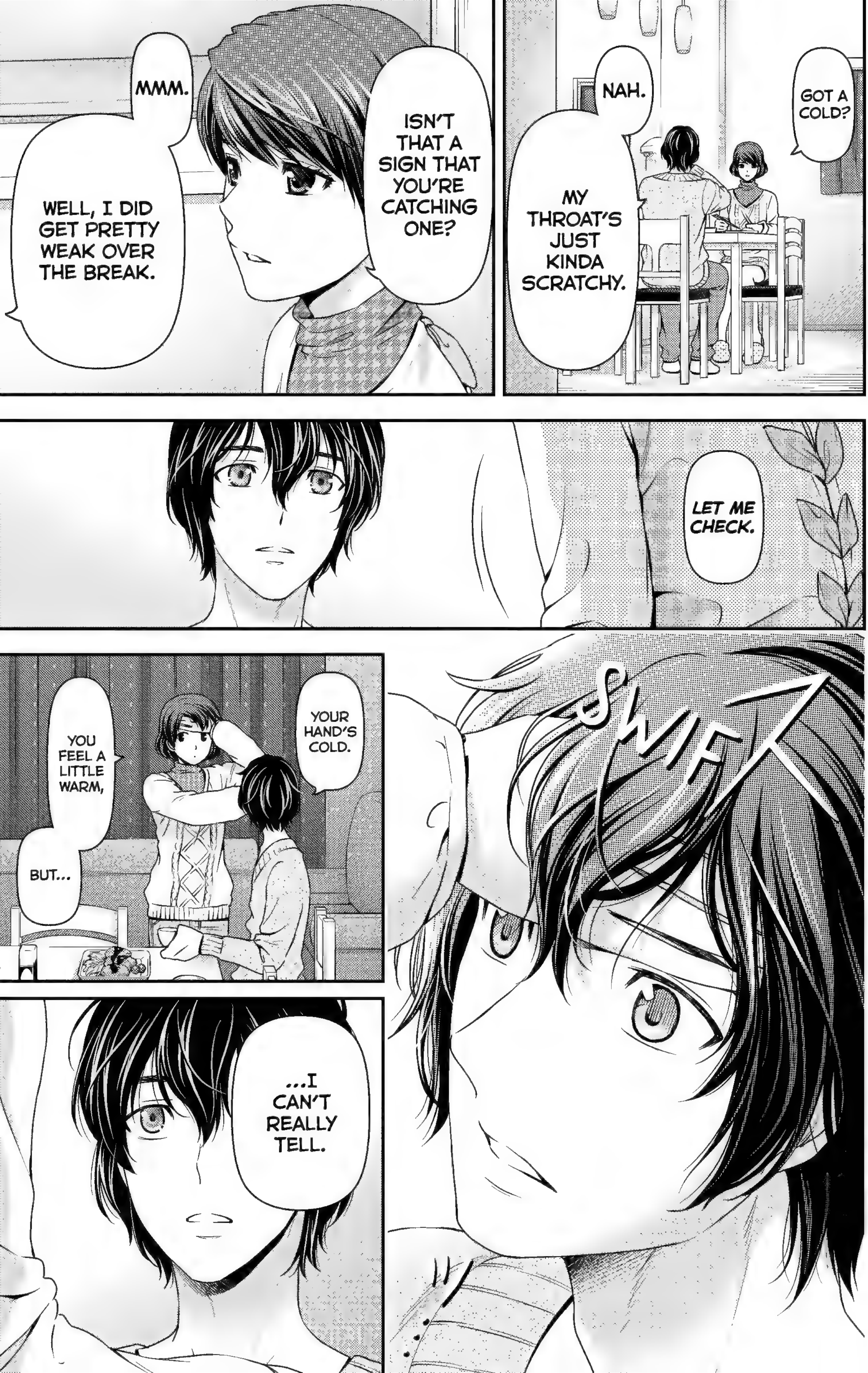

ASHIHARA-SAN!
GOOD MORN...
き!!
ろっ
GLARE
...ING.
OH, CRAP! SHE'S SUPER PISSED!
MYU-CHAAAN.
IT'S LIKE HER DESPAIR ONLY GOT WORSE WITH TIME.
A-ASHIHARA-SAN! BY ANY CHANCE, ARE YOU STILL UPSET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT SENSEI'S PLACE ON NEW YEAR'S?
I'M SO SORRY, MYU-CHAN!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO DOWN ABOUT IT!
I'M SURE KIRIYA-SENSEI FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT!
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO HELP?
TAP TAP TAP TAP
スタ スタ スタ スタ
I'M GOING...
...TO QUIT THE LITERATURE CLUB.

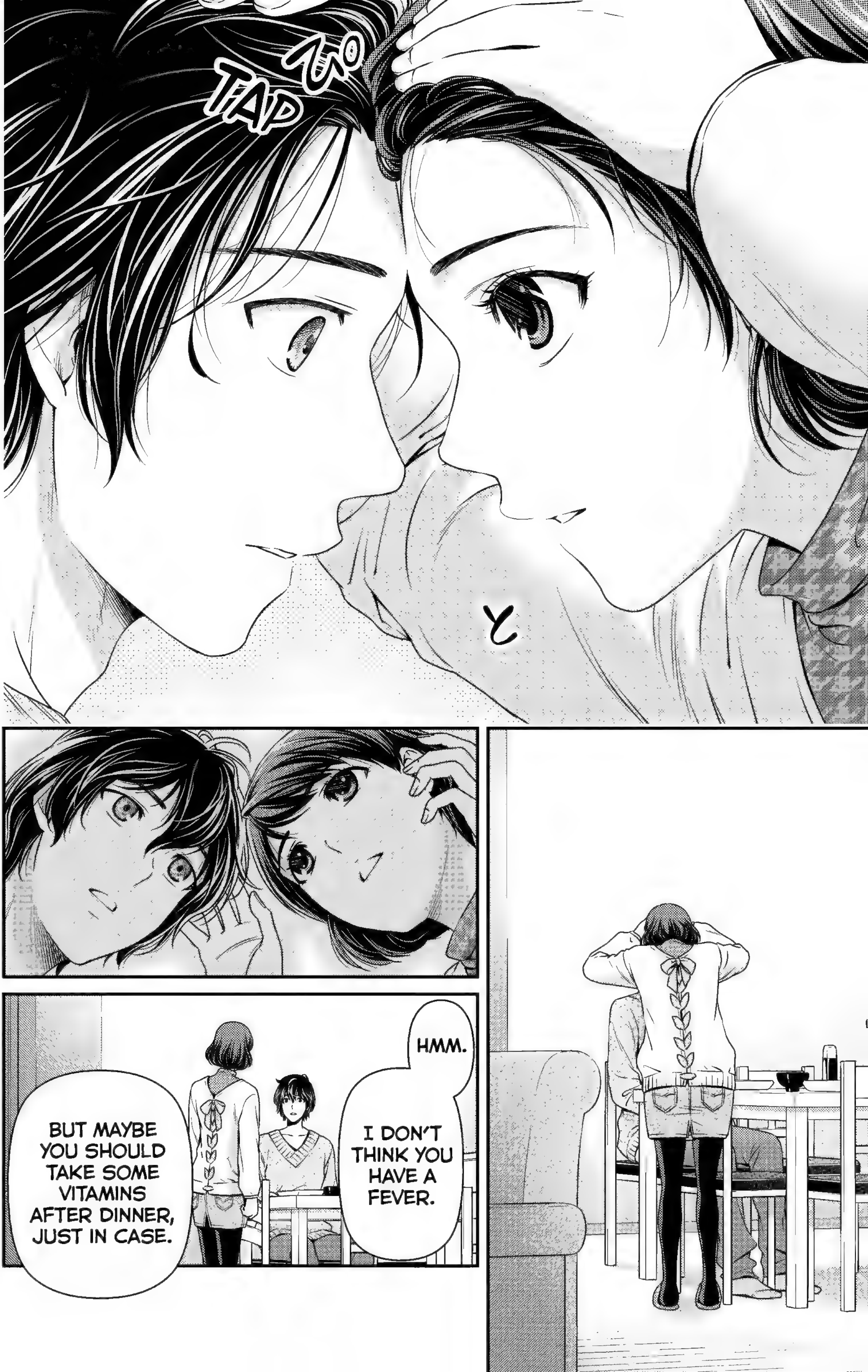

HUH?!
I MEAN,
NOT ONLY DID WE BOTHER HIM WHILE HE WAS WORKING,
BUT THEN HE TOLD ME OFF AFTER I DISGRACED MYSELF IN FRONT OF HIM!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO RECOVER FROM THAT?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I SHOULD FACE HIM ANYMORE!
...
WELL,
WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE, CAN WE?
FACULTY

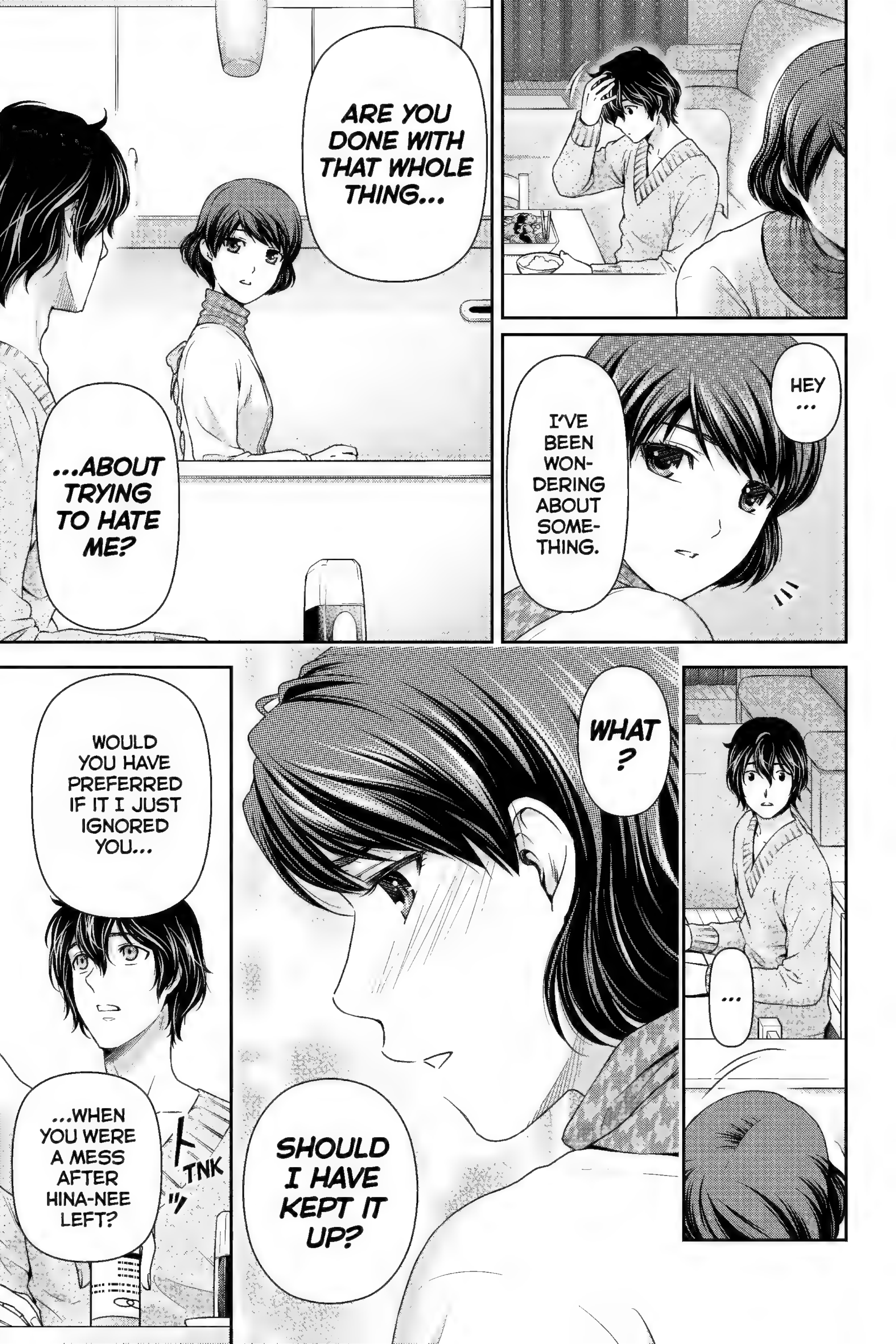

WE'RE VERY SORRY...
...FOR WHAT WE DID.
AS THE CLUB PRESIDENT, I'M ASHAMED OUR CONDUCT...
...AFTER WE BARGED INTO YOUR HOME THE OTHER DAY.
AT THE VERY LEAST, I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE AS MY FINAL ACT...
FINAL?
SHE SAID SHE WANTS TO QUIT THE CLUB FOR ALL THE TROUBLE WE CAUSED YOU.
KASHIWABARA-KUN.
SHE NEVER ENDED UP FORGIVING YOU?
HUH?

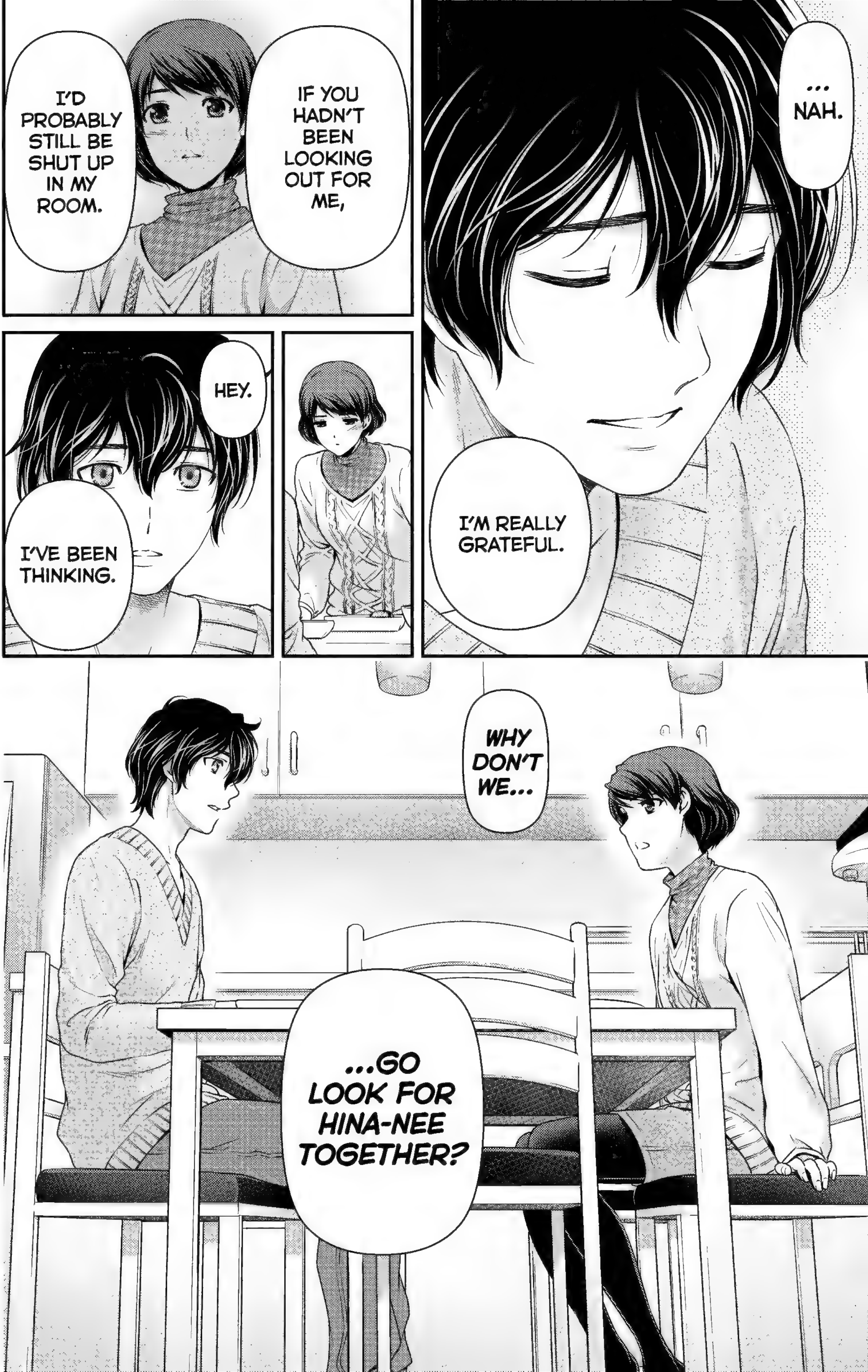

KASHIWABARA-KUN DROPPED BY AGAIN THE DAY AFTER NEW YEAR'S.
SHE APOLOGIZED PROFUSELY FOR HER DRUNKEN BEHAVIOR,
AND TRIED TO TAKE ALL THE BLAME FOR WHAT HAPPENED THE PREVIOUS DAY.
SHE SAID THAT IF MY OPINION OF ANYONE SHOULD SUFFER, THEN IT SHOULD BE HERS AND HERS ALONE.
WELL,
NOT THAT I HAVE A POOR OPINION OF ANY OF YOU.
SO, THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT IT, ASHIHARA-KUN.
PLEASE DON'T SAY YOU'LL QUIT THE CLUB.
THE MEMBERS AND I HAVE GREAT FAITH IN YOU,
PRESIDENT.
OKAY!

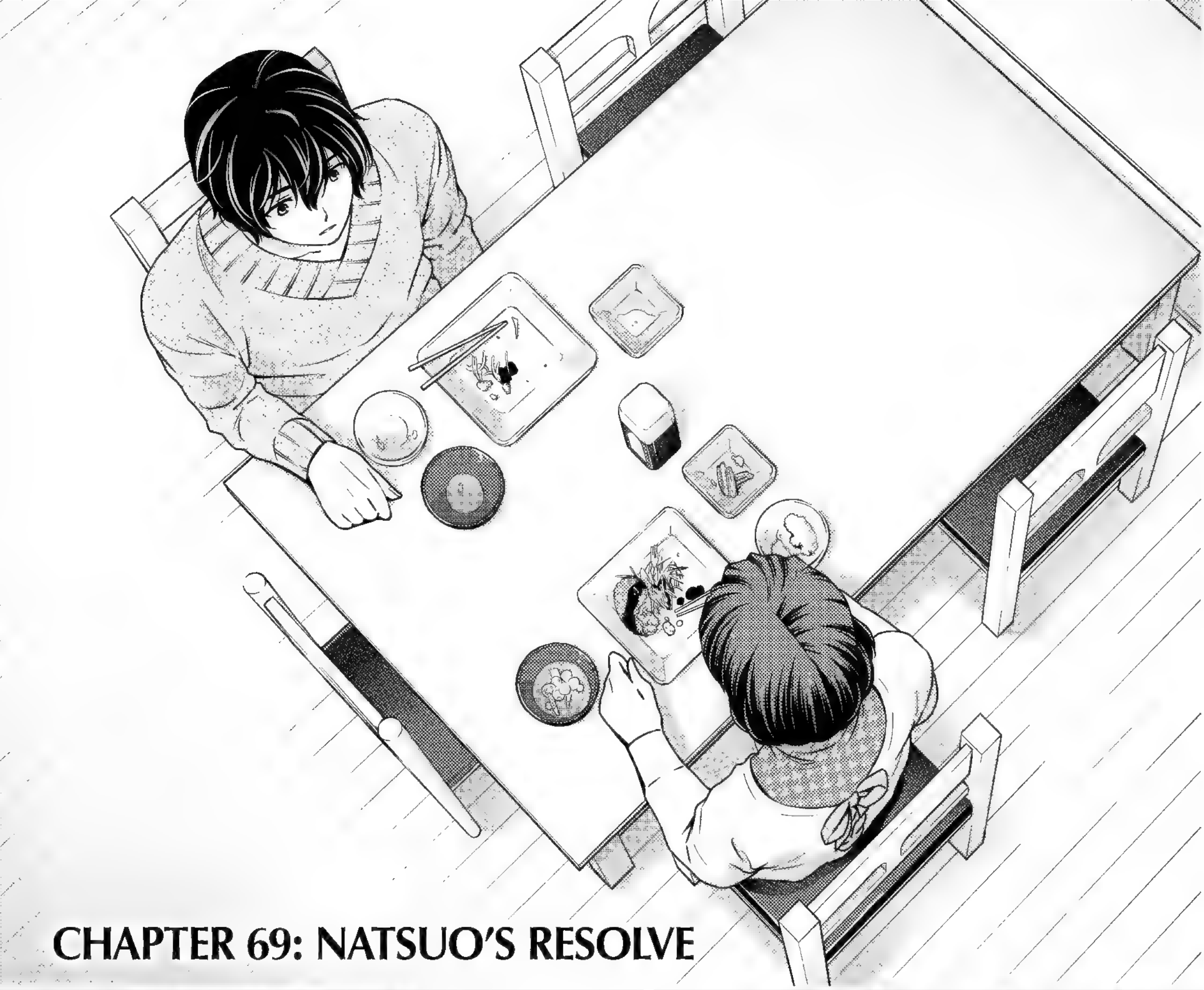

WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT MOMO TRIED TO PATCH THINGS UP LIKE THAT?
SHE WAS ROOTING FOR ASHIHARA-SAN'S CRUSH, AFTER ALL.
SHE PROBABLY REALLY REGRETTED WHAT HAPPENED.
WELL, I'M JUST GLAD THEY MADE UP.
OH, YEAH. HAVE YOU GOTTEN SENSEI'S FEEDBACK ON YOUR NOVEL YET?
NOT YET.
HE SAID HE WANTS TO HOLD ON TO IT FOR A LITTLE LONGER.
HE SEEMED PRETTY BUSY,
SO MAYBE HE HASN'T READ IT YET...
COUGH
COUGH


GOT A COLD?
NAH.
MY THROAT'S JUST KINDA SCRATCHY.
ISN'T THAT A SIGN THAT YOU'RE CATCHING ONE?
MMM.
WELL, I DID GET PRETTY WEAK OVER THE BREAK.
LET ME CHECK.
SWIF
YOUR HAND'S COLD.
YOU FEEL A LITTLE WARM,
BUT...
...I CAN'T REALLY TELL.

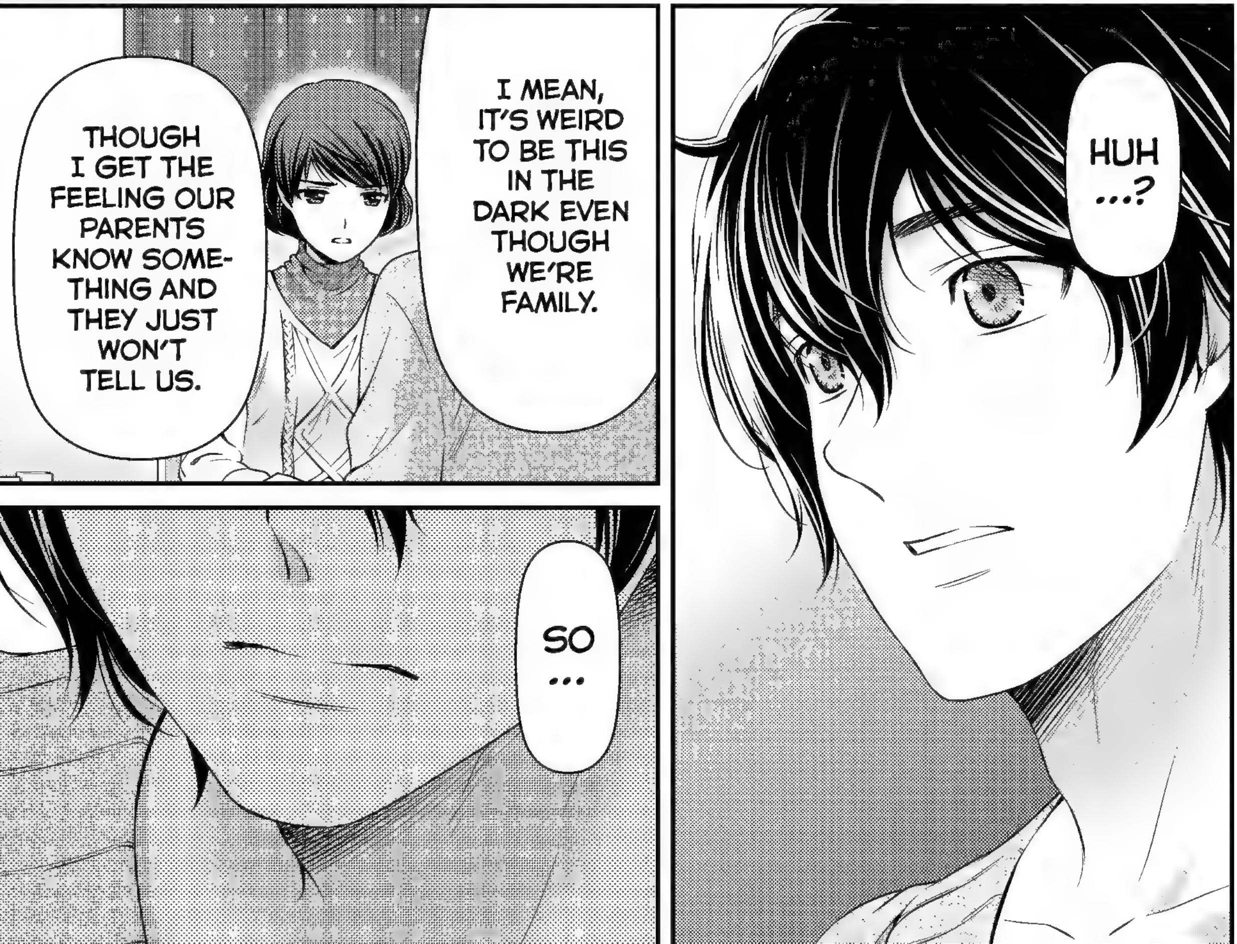

ぴ
TAP
と
HMM.
I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE A FEVER.
BUT MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE SOME VITAMINS AFTER DINNER, JUST IN CASE.

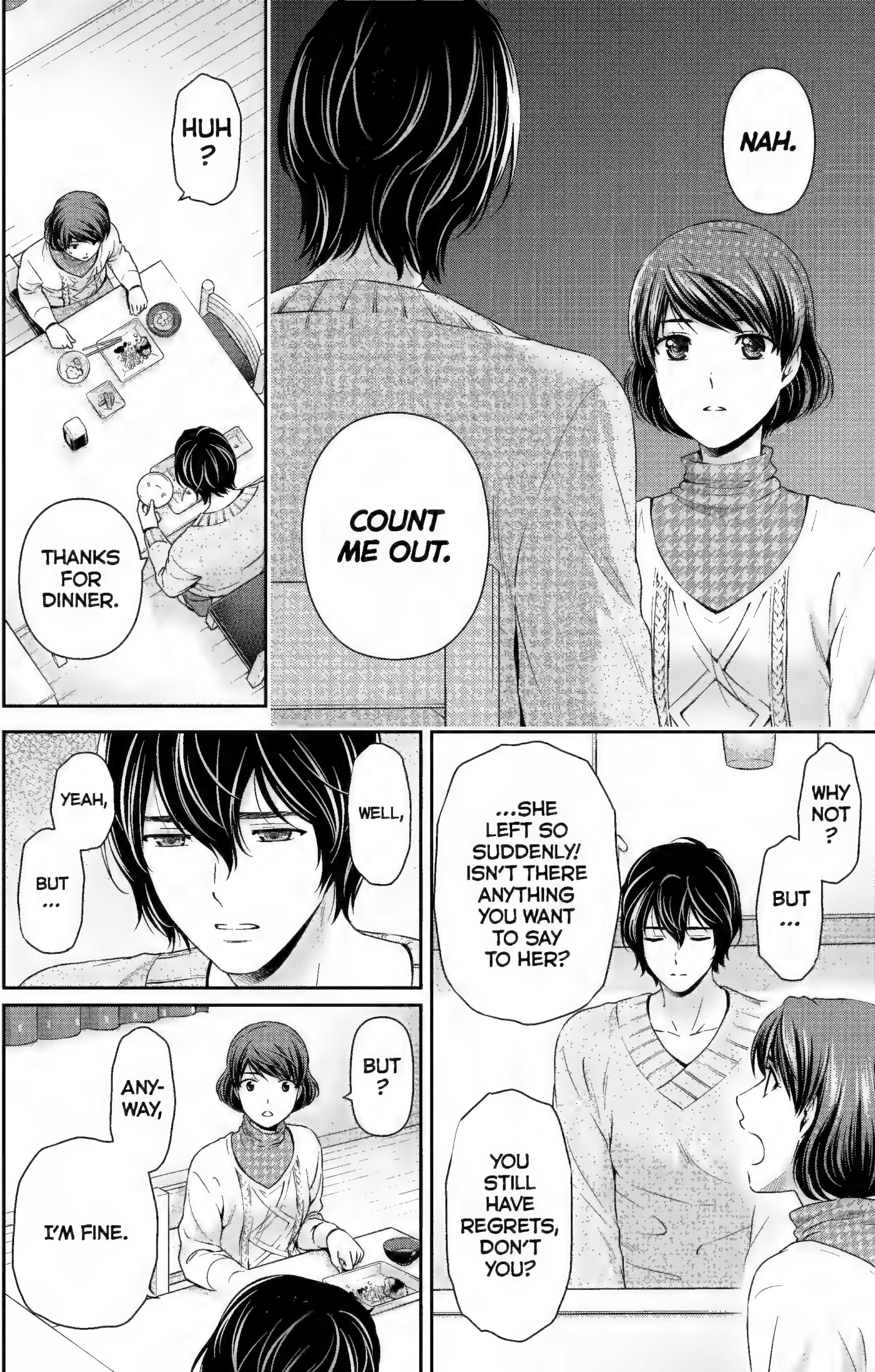

HEY...
I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT SOMETHING.
ARE YOU DONE WITH THAT WHOLE THING...
...ABOUT TRYING TO HATE ME?
WHAT?
...
SHOULD I HAVE KEPT IT UP?
WOULD YOU HAVE PREFERRED IF IT I JUST IGNORED YOU...
...WHEN YOU WERE A MESS AFTER HINA-NEE LEFT?
トッ
TNK

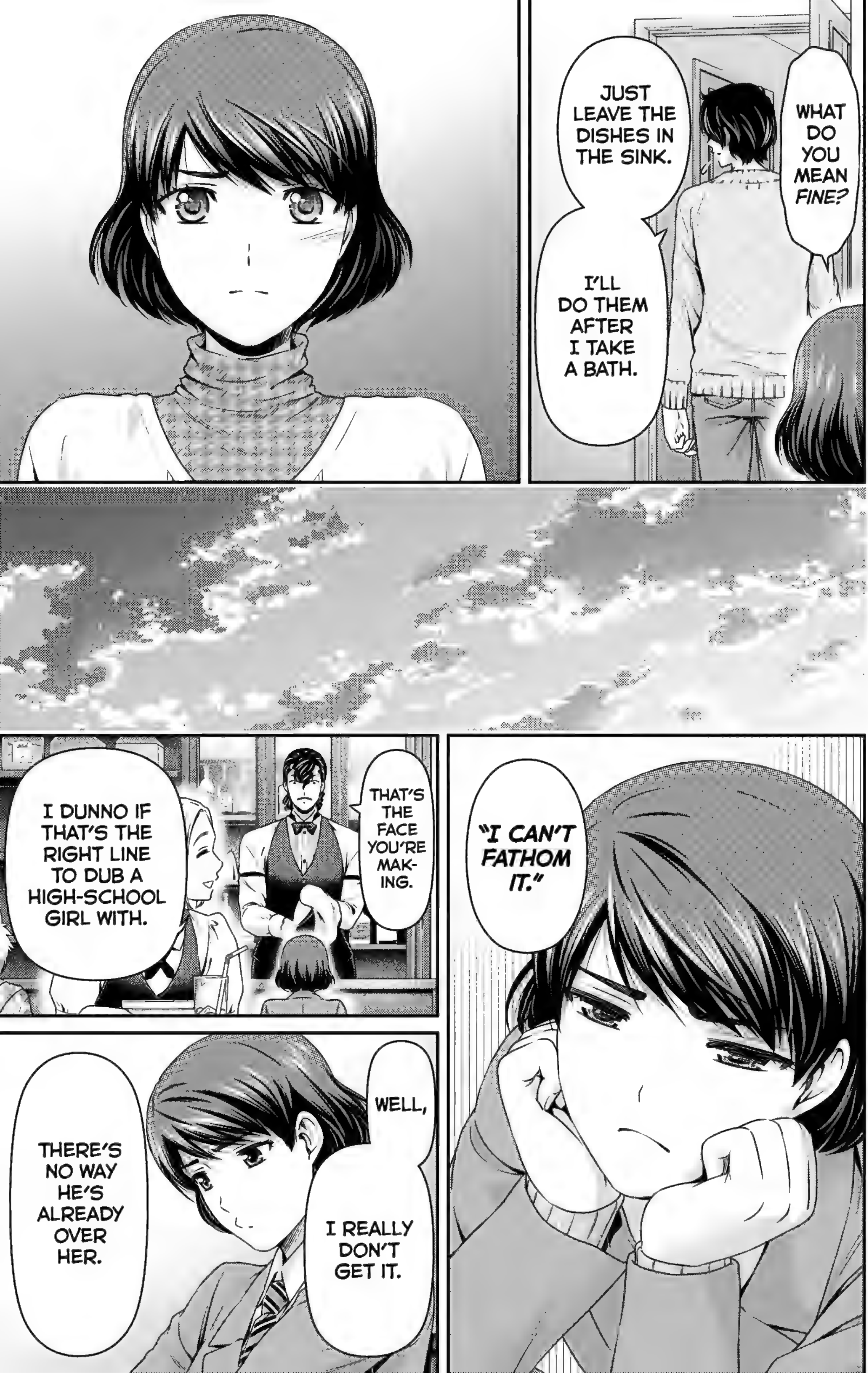

...NAH.
I'M REALLY GRATEFUL.
IF YOU HADN'T BEEN LOOKING OUT FOR ME,
I'D PROBABLY STILL BE SHUT UP IN MY ROOM.
HEY.
I'VE BEEN THINKING.
WHY DON'T WE...
...GO LOOK FOR HINA-NEE TOGETHER?

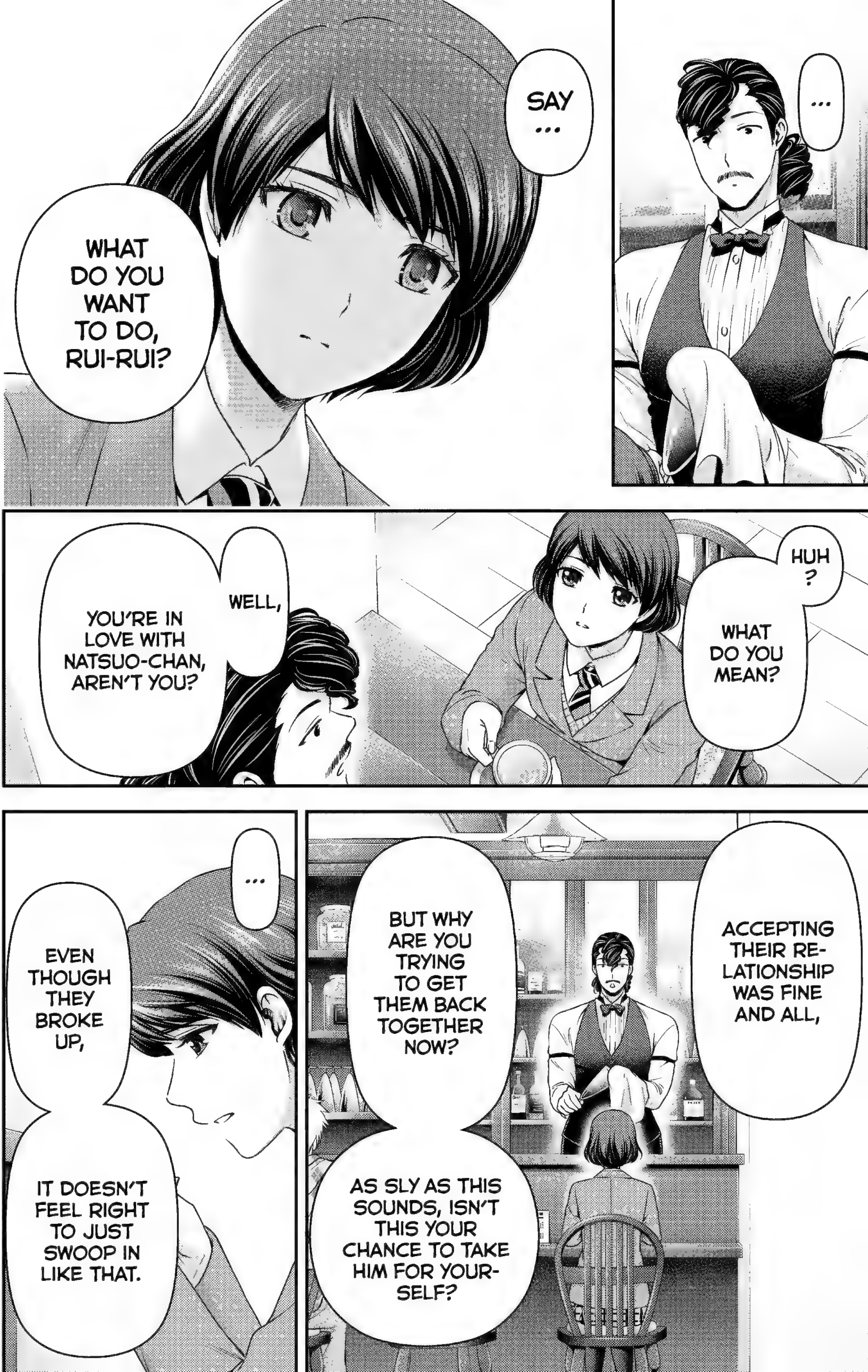


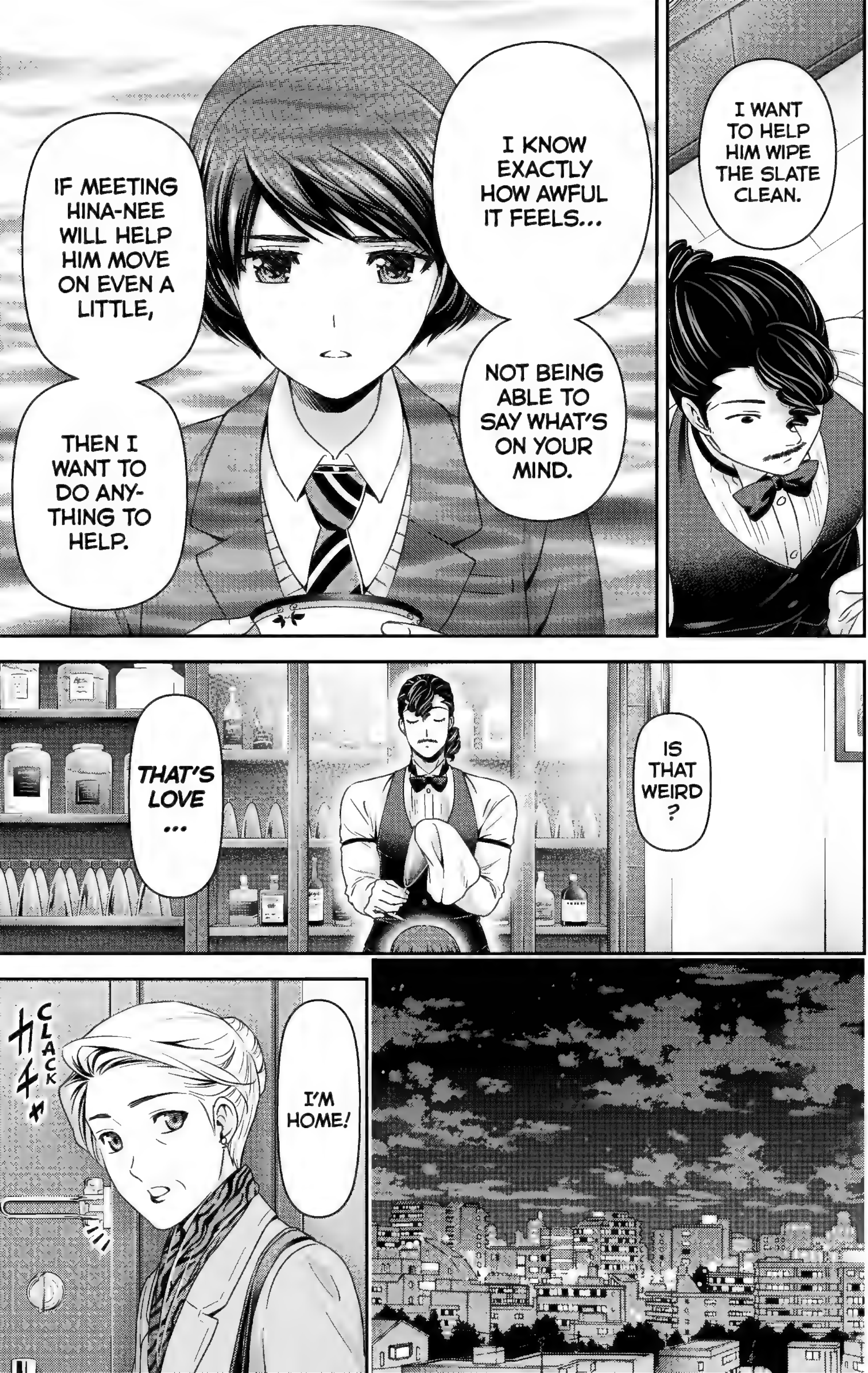
CHAPTER 69: NATSUO'S RESOLVE

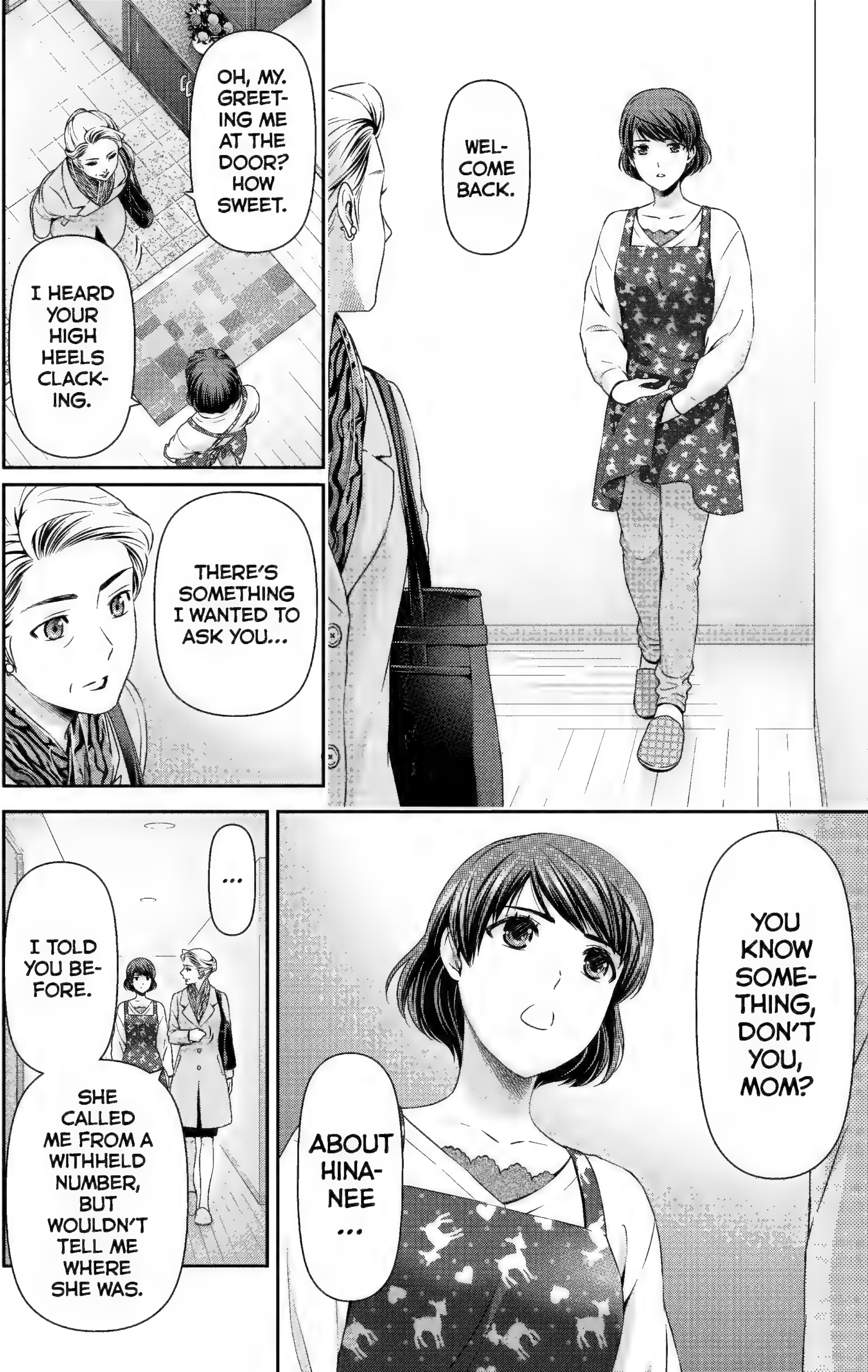

HUH...?
I MEAN, IT'S WEIRD TO BE THIS IN THE DARK EVEN THOUGH WE'RE FAMILY.
THOUGH I GET THE FEELING OUR PARENTS KNOW SOMETHING AND THEY JUST WON'T TELL US.
SO...

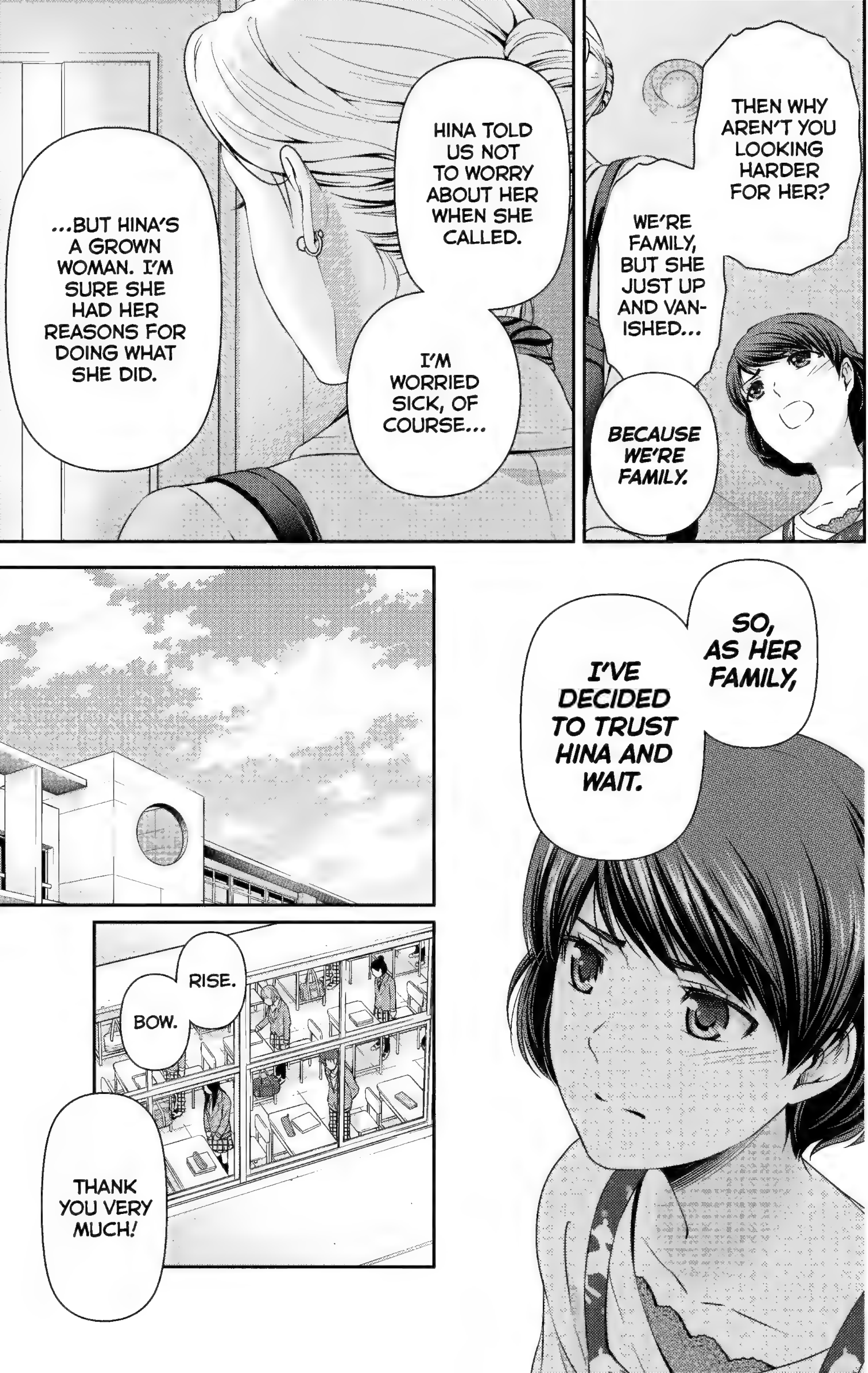

NAH.
COUNT ME OUT.
HUH?
THANKS FOR DINNER.
WHY NOT?
BUT...
...SHE LEFT SO SUDDENLY! ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY TO HER?
YOU STILL HAVE REGRETS, DON'T YOU?
WELL,
YEAH,
BUT...
BUT?
ANYWAY,
I'M FINE.

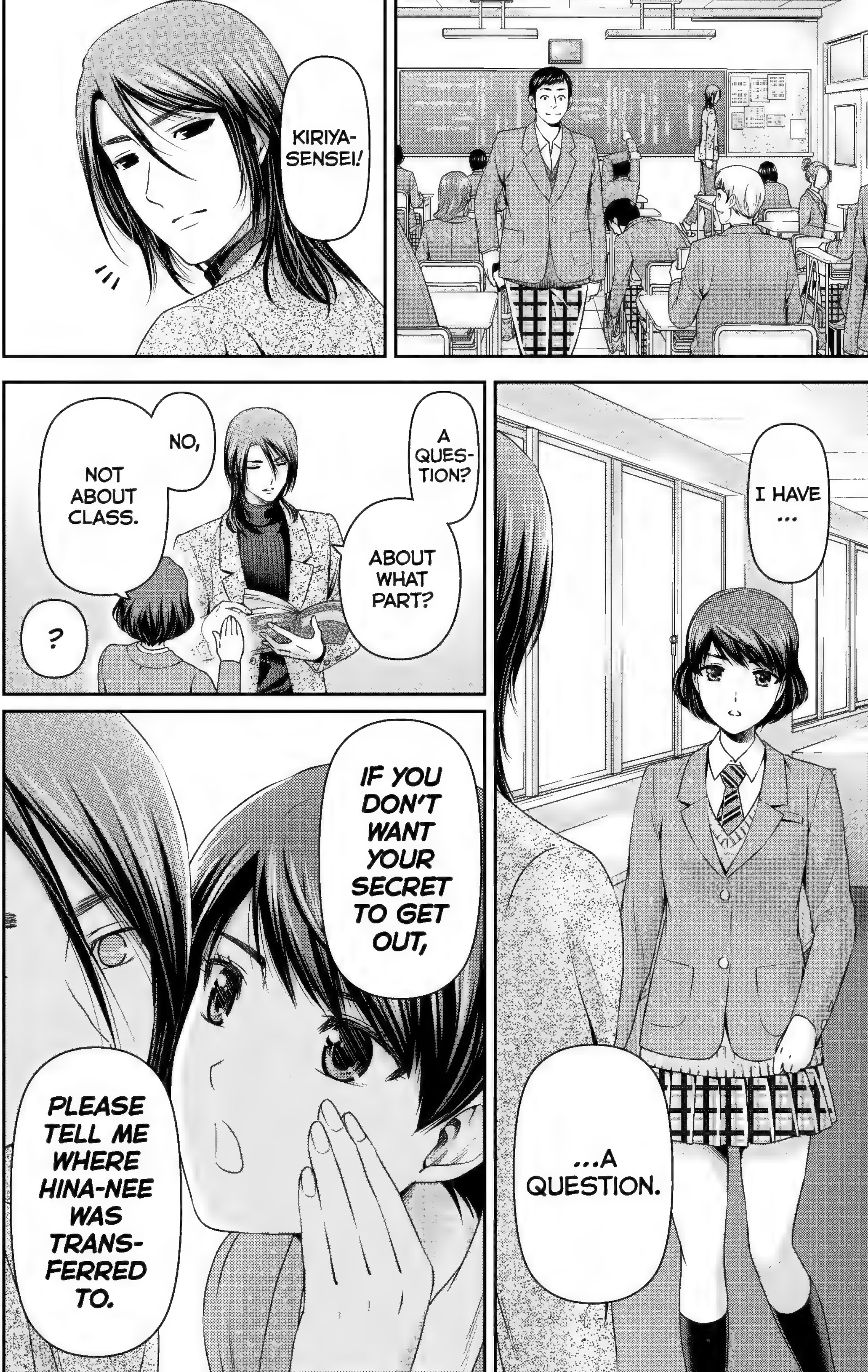

WHAT DO YOU MEAN *FINE?*
JUST LEAVE THE DISHES IN THE SINK.
I'LL DO THEM AFTER I TAKE A BATH.
"I CAN'T FATHOM IT."
THAT'S THE FACE YOU'RE MAKING.
I DUNNO IF THAT'S THE RIGHT LINE TO DUB A HIGH-SCHOOL GIRL WITH.
WELL,
I REALLY DON'T GET IT.
THERE'S NO WAY HE'S ALREADY OVER HER.

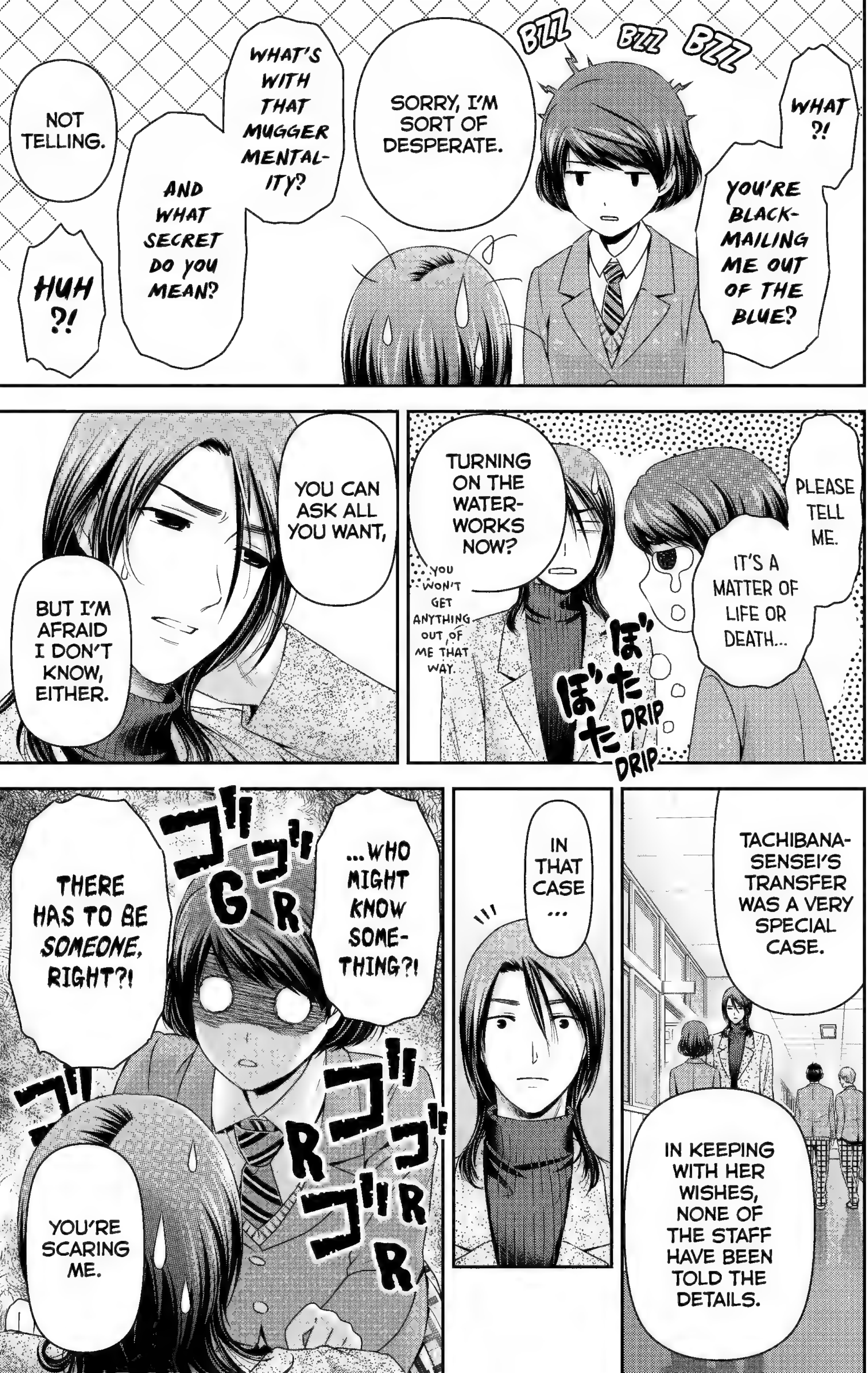

...
SAY...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO, RUI-RUI?
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL,
YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH NATSUO-CHAN, AREN'T YOU?
ACCEPTING THEIR RELATIONSHIP WAS FINE AND ALL,
BUT WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO GET THEM BACK TOGETHER NOW?
AS SLY AS THIS SOUNDS, ISN'T THIS YOUR CHANCE TO TAKE HIM FOR YOURSELF?
...
EVEN THOUGH THEY BROKE UP,
IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT TO JUST SWOOP IN LIKE THAT.

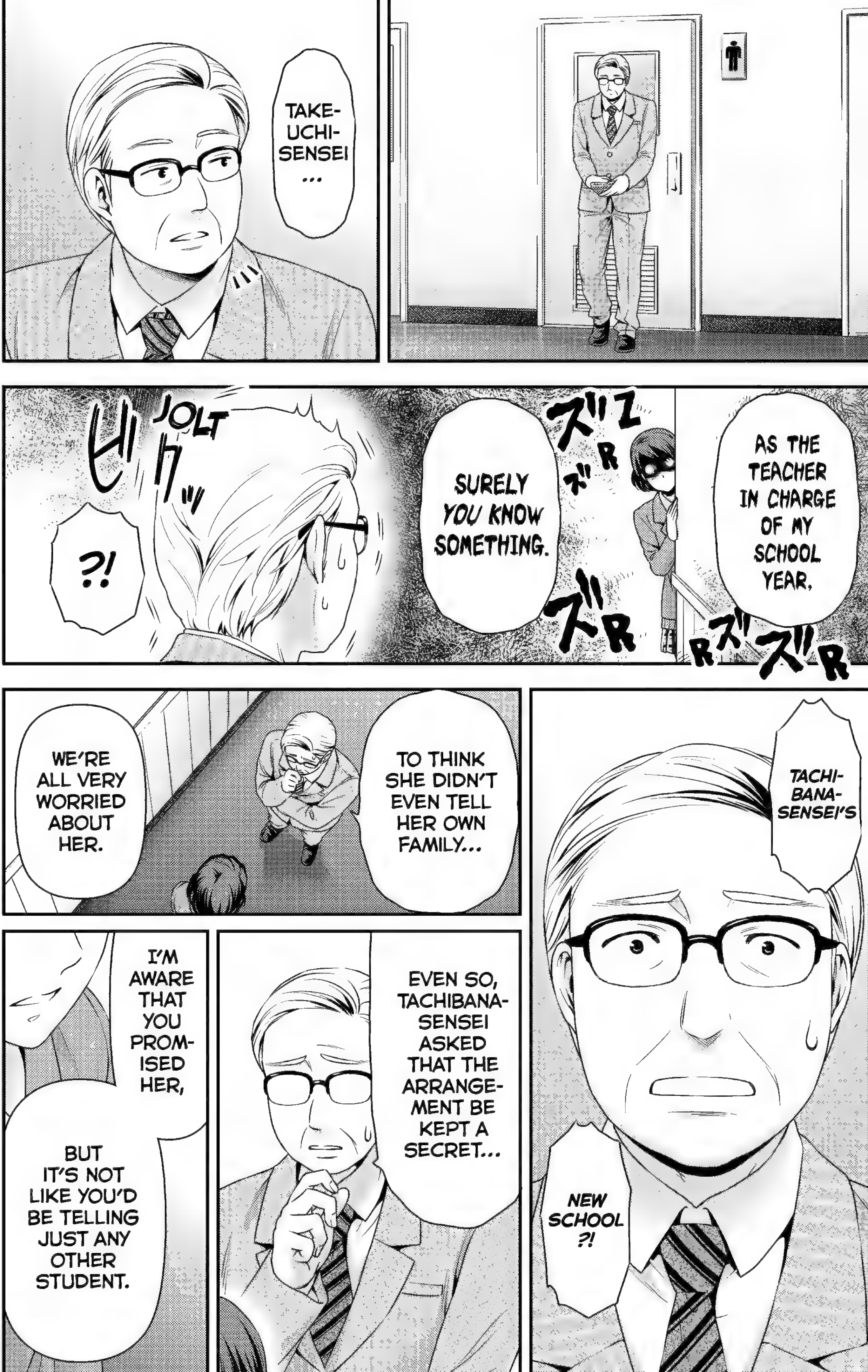

I WANT TO HELP HIM WIPE THE SLATE CLEAN.
I KNOW EXACTLY HOW AWFUL IT FEELS...
NOT BEING ABLE TO SAY WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND.
IF MEETING HINA-NEE WILL HELP HIM MOVE ON EVEN A LITTLE,
THEN I WANT TO DO ANYTHING TO HELP.
IS THAT WEIRD?
THAT'S LOVE...
I'M HOME!
カチャ CLACK

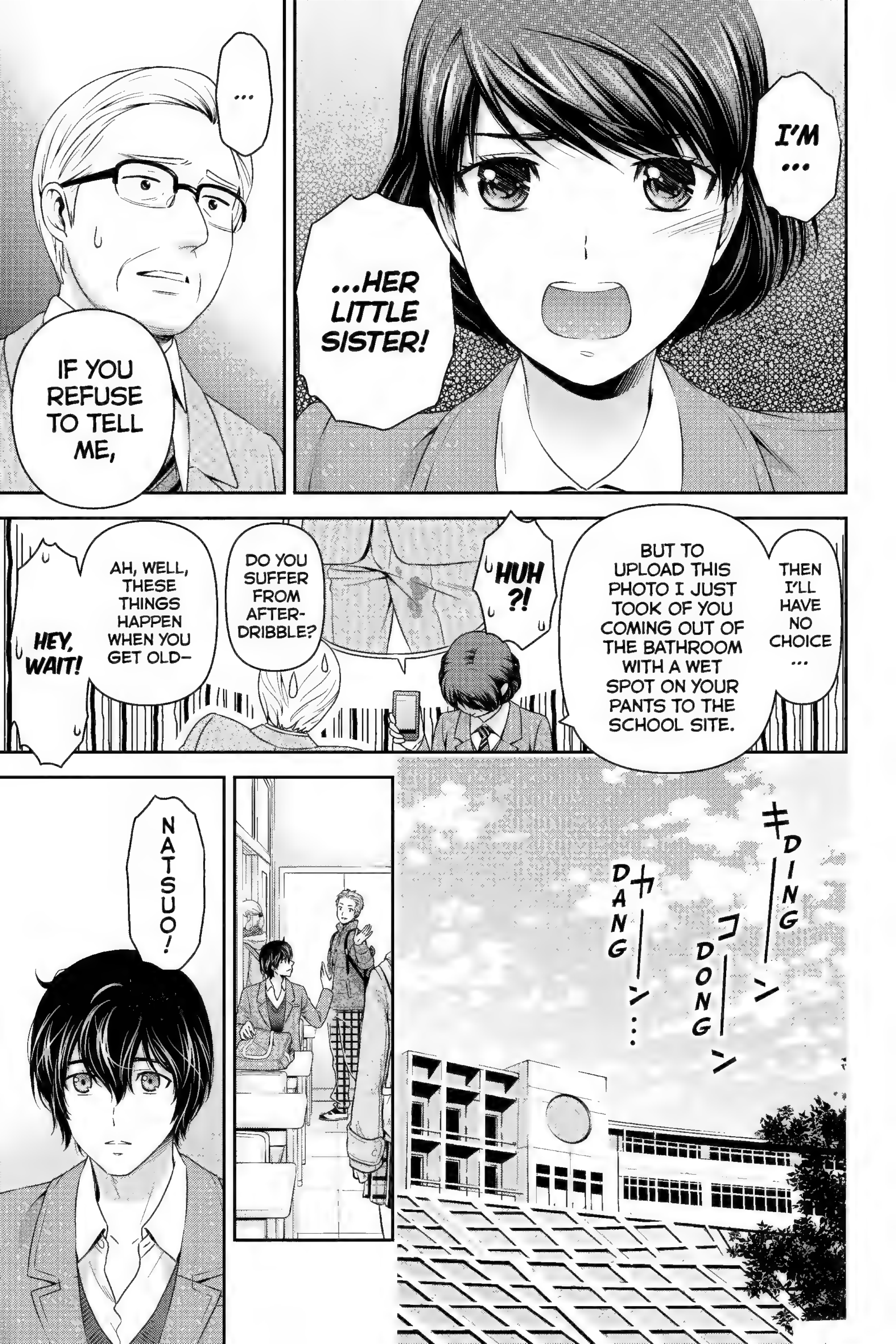

WELCOME BACK.
OH, MY. GREETING ME AT THE DOOR? HOW SWEET.
I HEARD YOUR HIGH HEELS CLACKING.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU...
YOU KNOW SOMETHING, DON'T YOU, MOM?
ABOUT HINA-NEE...
...
I TOLD YOU BEFORE.
SHE CALLED ME FROM A WITHHELD NUMBER, BUT WOULDN'T TELL ME WHERE SHE WAS.

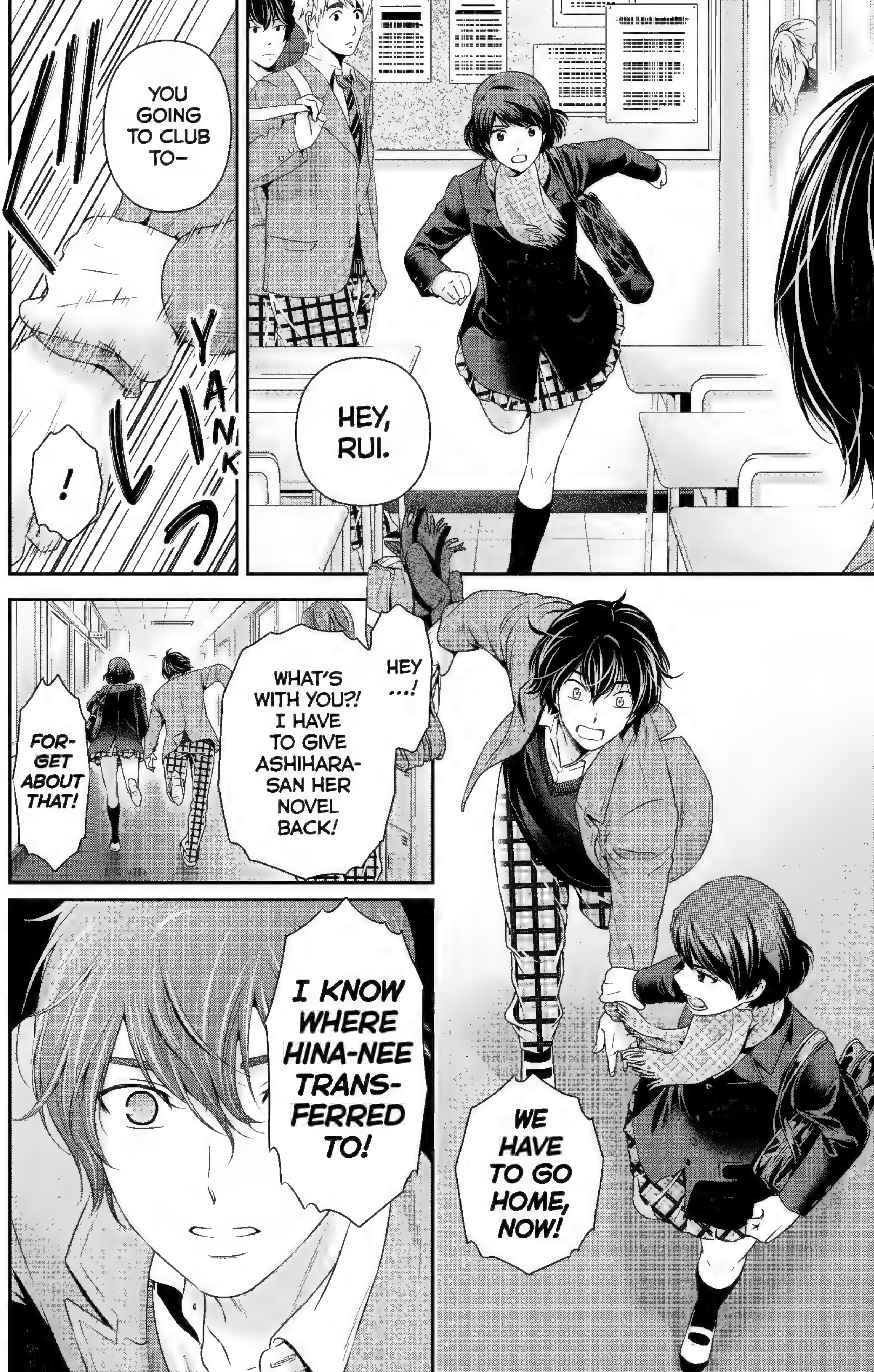

HINA TOLD US NOT TO WORRY ABOUT HER WHEN SHE CALLED.
I'M WORRIED SICK, OF COURSE...
...BUT HINA'S A GROWN WOMAN. I'M SURE SHE HAD HER REASONS FOR DOING WHAT SHE DID.
THEN WHY AREN'T YOU LOOKING HARDER FOR HER?
WE'RE FAMILY, BUT SHE JUST UP AND VANISHED...
BECAUSE WE'RE FAMILY.
SO, AS HER FAMILY,
I'VE DECIDED TO TRUST HINA AND WAIT.
RISE.
BOW.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

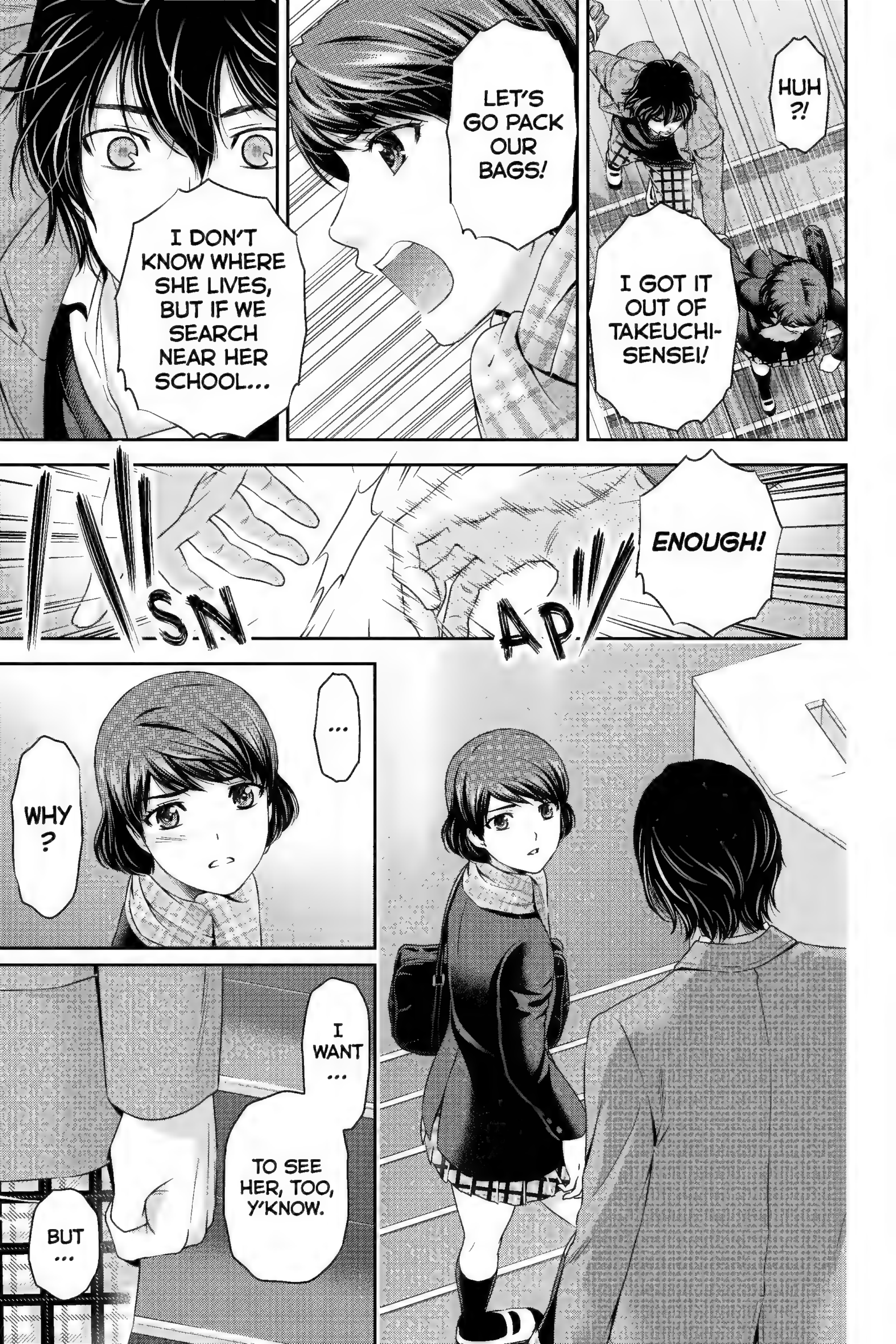

KIRIYA-SENSEI!
I HAVE ...
...A QUESTION.
A QUESTION?
ABOUT WHAT PART?
NO,
NOT ABOUT CLASS.
?
IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR SECRET TO GET OUT,
PLEASE TELL ME WHERE HINA-NEE WAS TRANSFERRED TO.

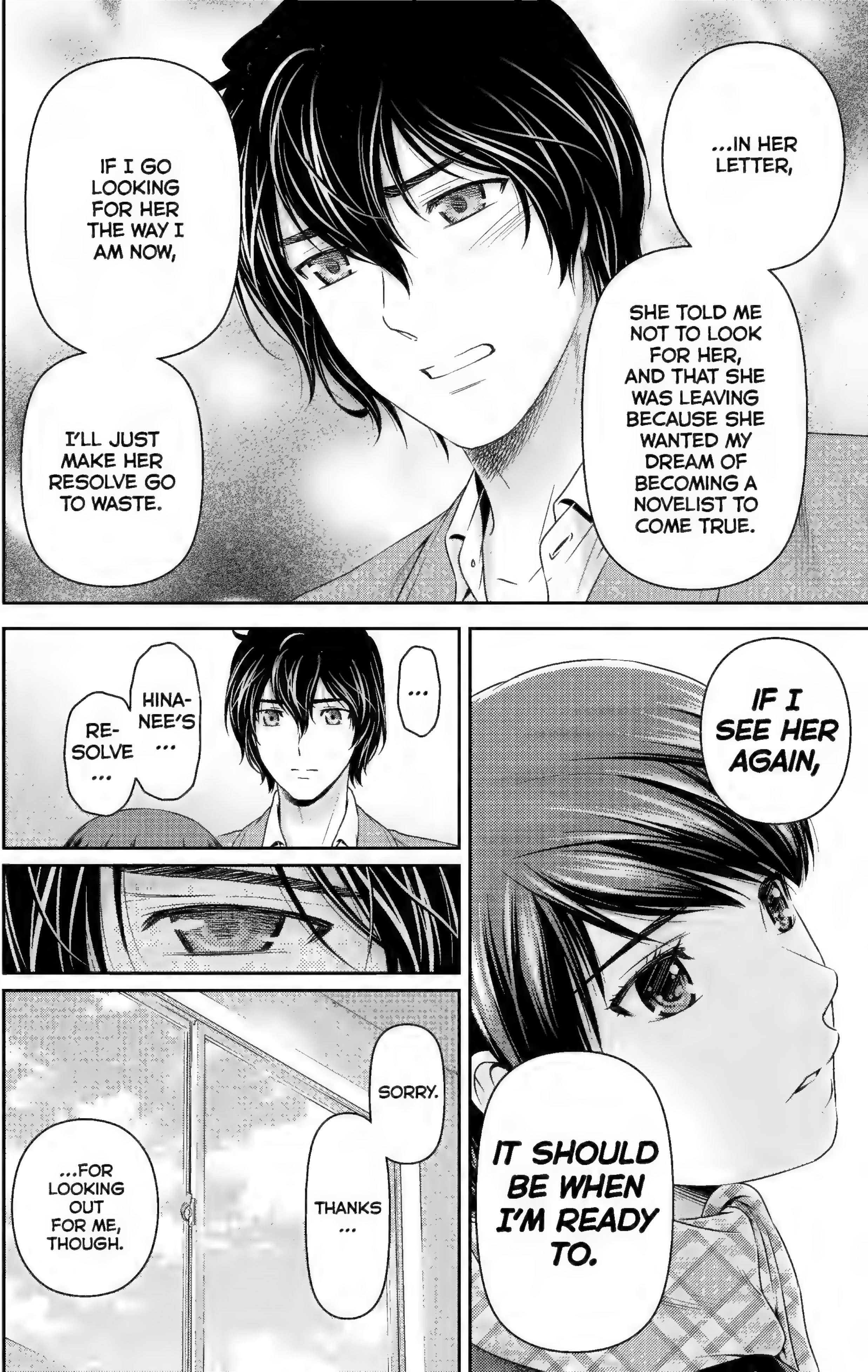

WHAT?!
YOU'RE BLACKMAILING ME OUT OF THE BLUE?
BZZ BZZ BZZ
SORRY, I'M SORT OF DESPERATE.
WHAT'S WITH THAT MUGGER MENTALITY?
AND WHAT SECRET DO YOU MEAN?
NOT TELLING.
HUH?!
PLEASE TELL ME.
IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH...
ぼたぼた DRIP DRIP
TURNING ON THE WATERWORKS NOW?
YOU WON'T GET ANYTHING OUT OF ME THAT WAY.
YOU CAN ASK ALL YOU WANT,
BUT I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW, EITHER.
TACHIBANA-SENSEI'S TRANSFER WAS A VERY SPECIAL CASE.
IN KEEPING WITH HER WISHES, NONE OF THE STAFF HAVE BEEN TOLD THE DETAILS.
IN THAT CASE...
...WHO MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING?!
ゴゴ GR
THERE HAS TO BE SOMEONE, RIGHT?!
ゴゴゴゴ RRR
YOU'RE SCARING ME.

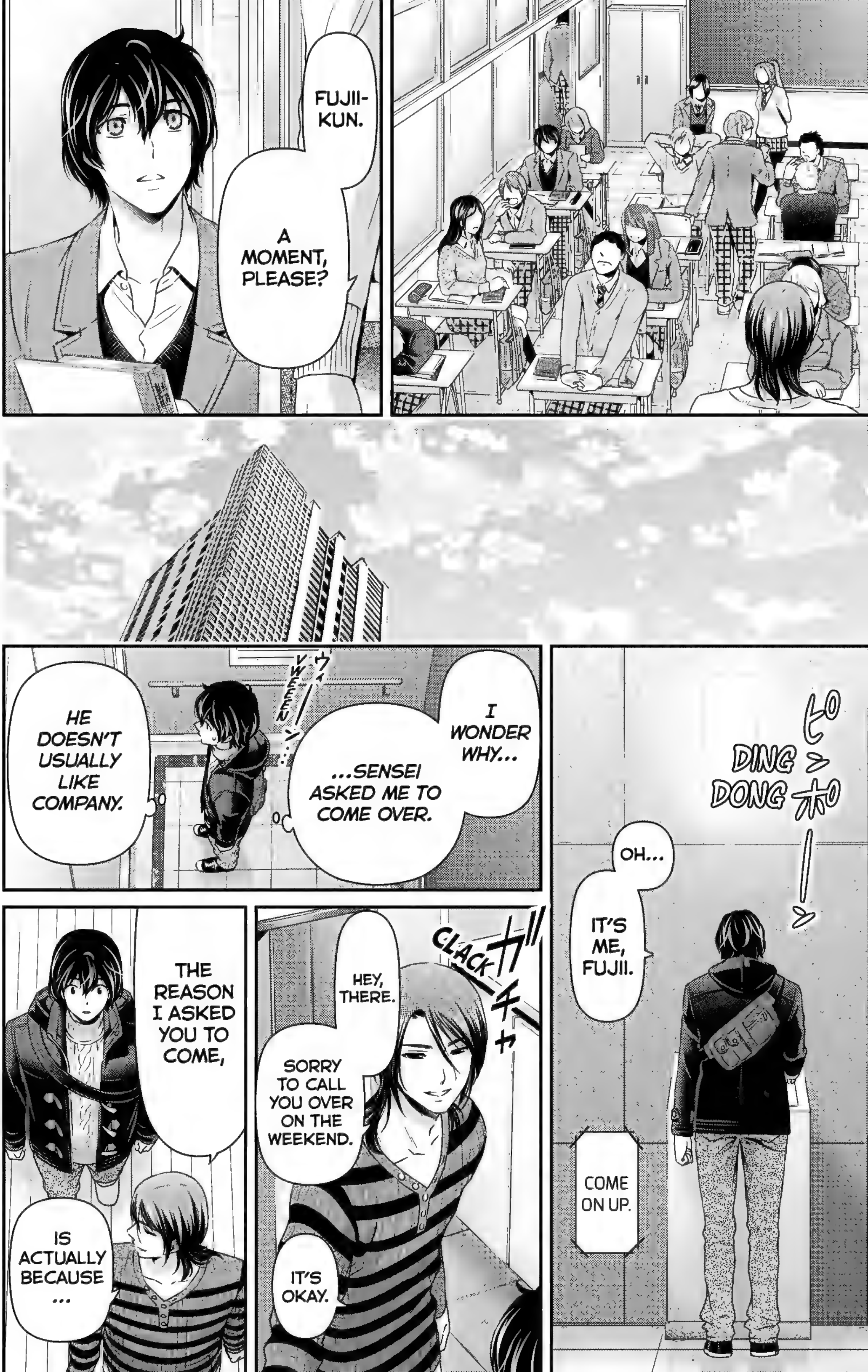

TAKE-UCHI-SENSEI...
AS THE TEACHER IN CHARGE OF MY SCHOOL YEAR,
ズズ Z R
ズ R
ズズ R R
SURELY *YOU* KNOW SOMETHING.
ビクッ JOLT
?!
TACHIBANA-SENSEI'S
NEW SCHOOL ?!
TO THINK SHE DIDN'T EVEN TELL HER OWN FAMILY...
WE'RE ALL VERY WORRIED ABOUT HER.
EVEN SO, TACHIBANA-SENSEI ASKED THAT THE ARRANGEMENT BE KEPT A SECRET...
I'M AWARE THAT YOU PROMISED HER,
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'D BE TELLING JUST ANY OTHER STUDENT.

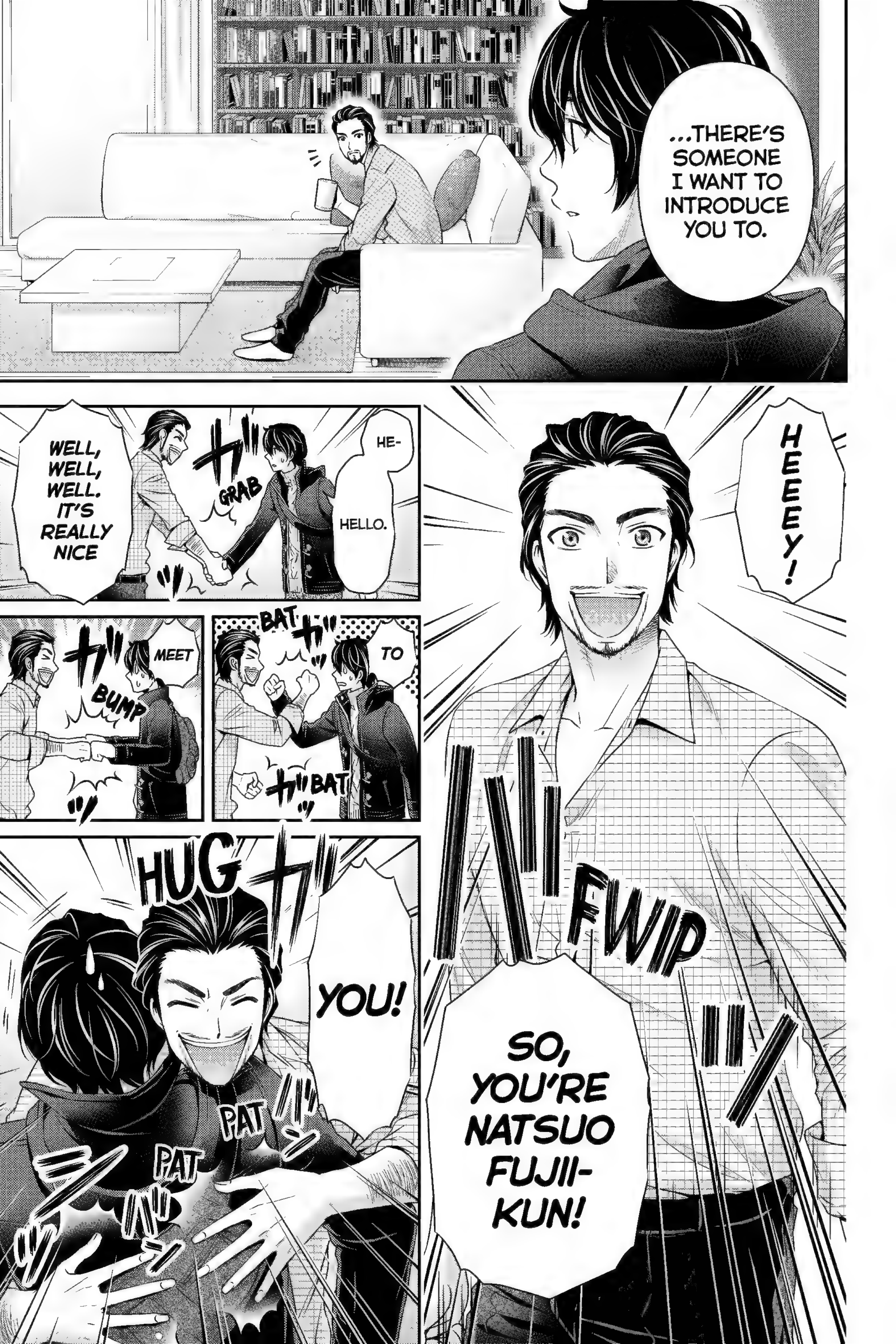

I'M...
...HER LITTLE SISTER!
...
IF YOU REFUSE TO TELL ME,
THEN I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE...
BUT TO UPLOAD THIS PHOTO I JUST TOOK OF YOU COMING OUT OF THE BATHROOM WITH A WET SPOT ON YOUR PANTS TO THE SCHOOL SITE.
HUH?!
DO YOU SUFFER FROM AFTER-DRIBBLE?
AH, WELL, THESE THINGS HAPPEN WHEN YOU GET OLD–
HEY, WAIT!
キーン
DING
コーン
DONG
カーン…
DANG
NATSUO!

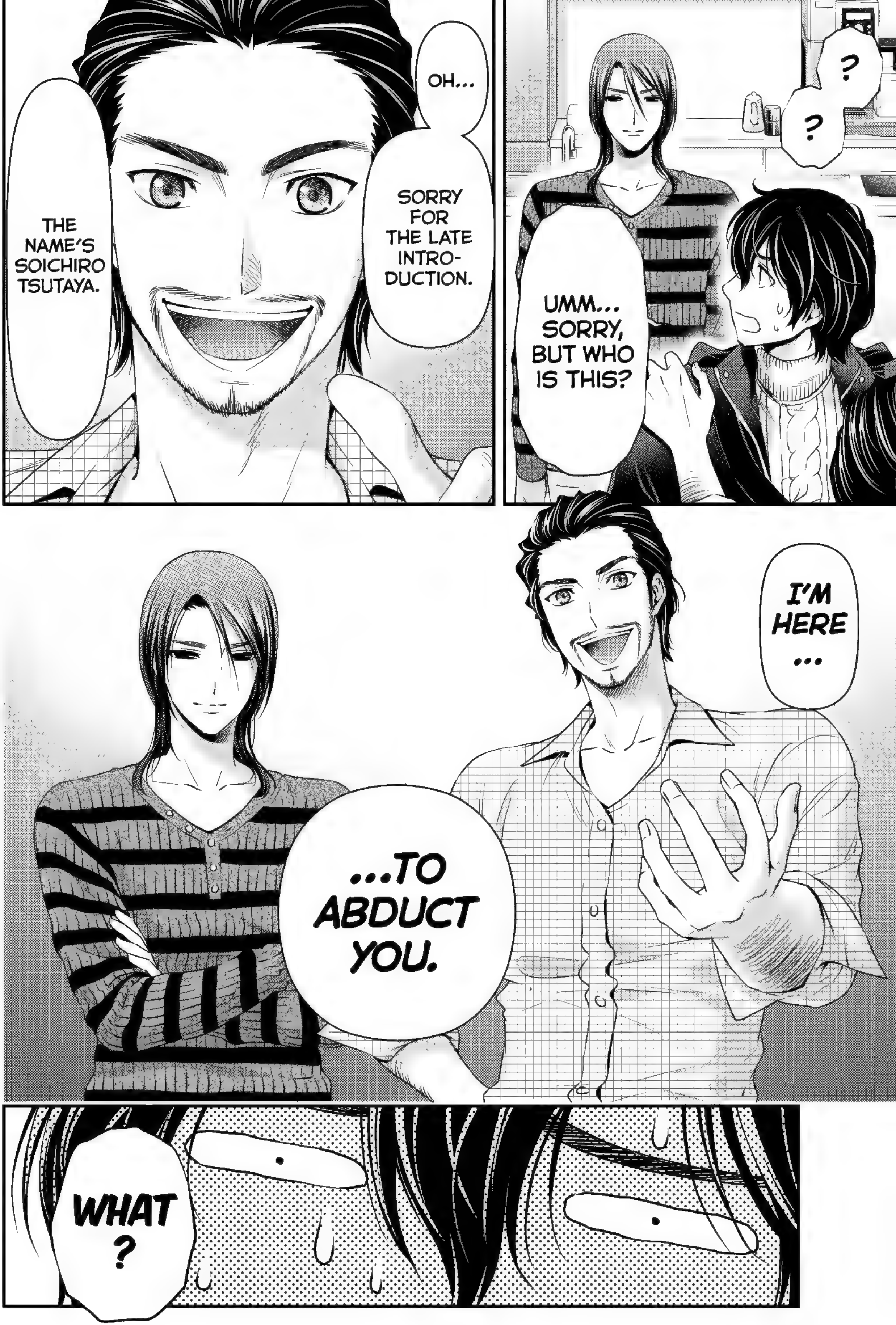

HEY, RUI.
YOU GOING TO CLUB TO—
YANK
!
HEY...!
WHAT'S WITH YOU?! I HAVE TO GIVE ASHIHARA-SAN HER NOVEL BACK!
FORGET ABOUT THAT!
WE HAVE TO GO HOME, NOW!
I KNOW WHERE HINA-NEE TRANSFERRED TO!


HUH ?!
I GOT IT OUT OF TAKEUCHI-SENSEI!
LET'S GO PACK OUR BAGS!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE LIVES, BUT IF WE SEARCH NEAR HER SCHOOL...
ENOUGH!
SNAP
...
WHY ?
I WANT ...
TO SEE HER, TOO, Y'KNOW.
BUT ...

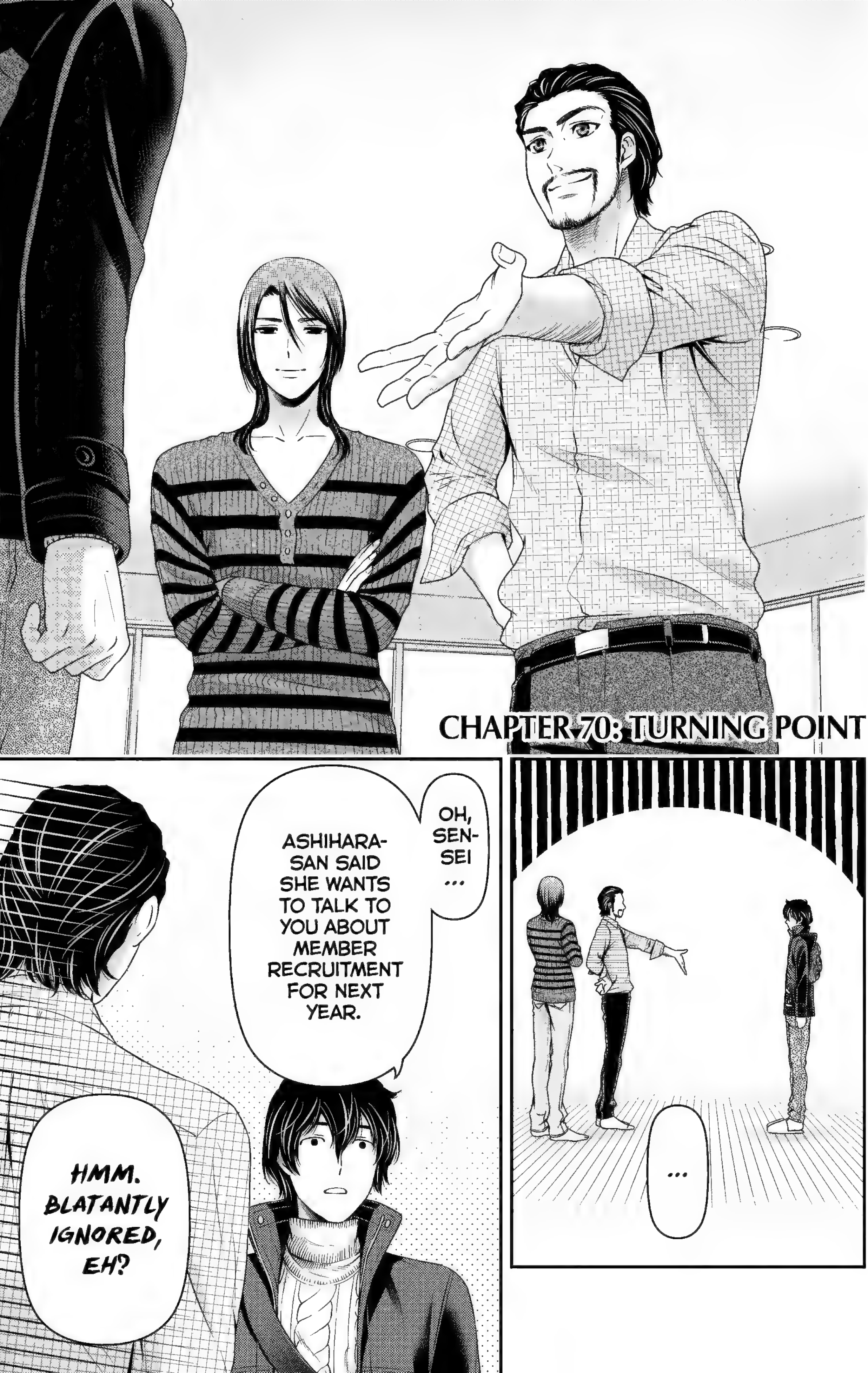

...IN HER LETTER,
SHE TOLD ME NOT TO LOOK FOR HER, AND THAT SHE WAS LEAVING BECAUSE SHE WANTED MY DREAM OF BECOMING A NOVELIST TO COME TRUE.
IF I GO LOOKING FOR HER THE WAY I AM NOW,
I'LL JUST MAKE HER RESOLVE GO TO WASTE.
...
HINA-NEE'S...
RESOLVE...
IF I SEE HER AGAIN,
IT SHOULD BE WHEN I'M READY TO.
SORRY.
THANKS...
...FOR LOOKING OUT FOR ME, THOUGH.

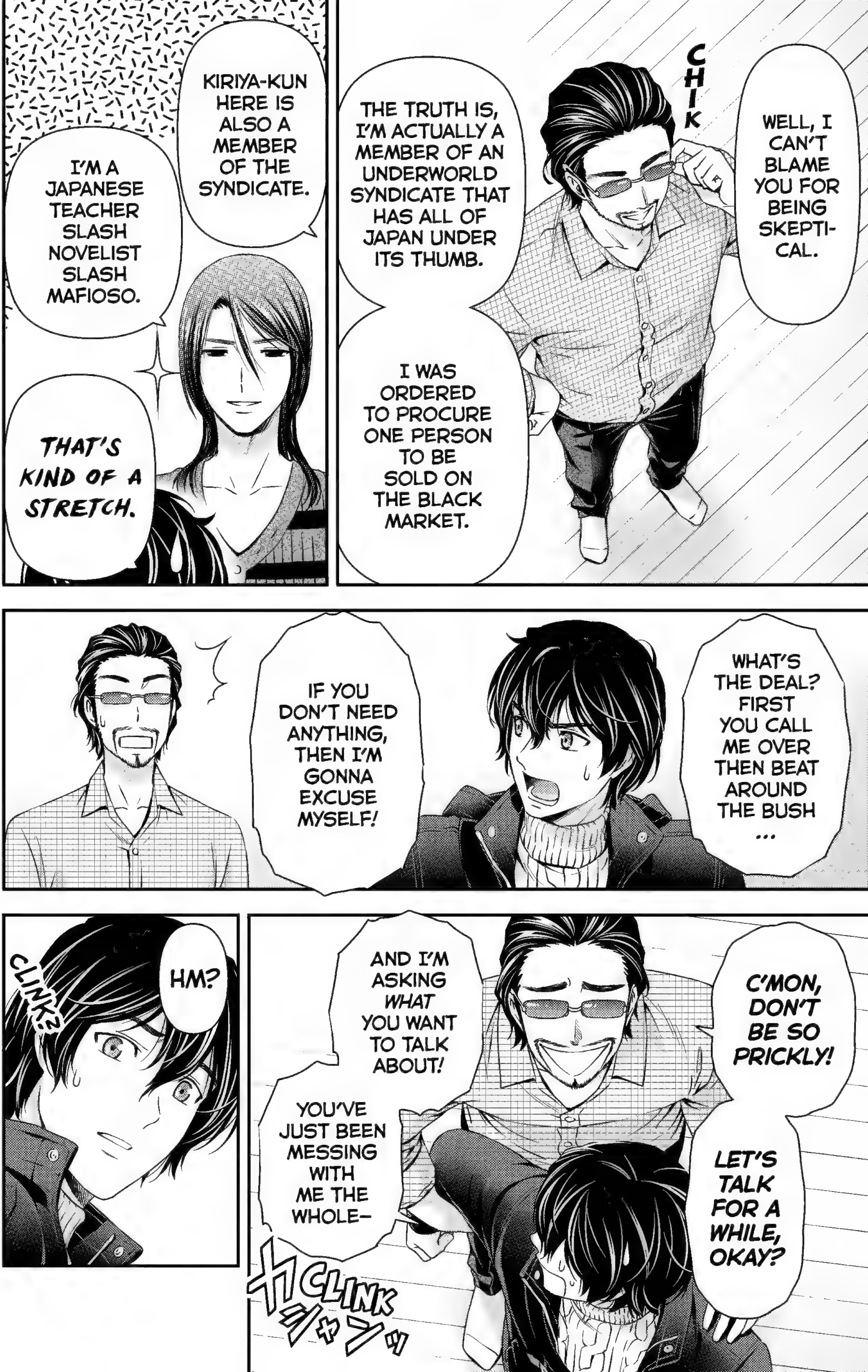

FUJII-KUN.
A MOMENT, PLEASE?
ピンポーン
DING DONG
OH...
IT'S ME, FUJII.
COME ON UP.
I WONDER WHY...
...SENSEI ASKED ME TO COME OVER.
ヴィーン…
VWEEEN...
HE DOESN'T USUALLY LIKE COMPANY.
ガチャ
CLACK
HEY, THERE.
SORRY TO CALL YOU OVER ON THE WEEKEND.
IT'S OKAY.
THE REASON I ASKED YOU TO COME,
IS ACTUALLY BECAUSE ...

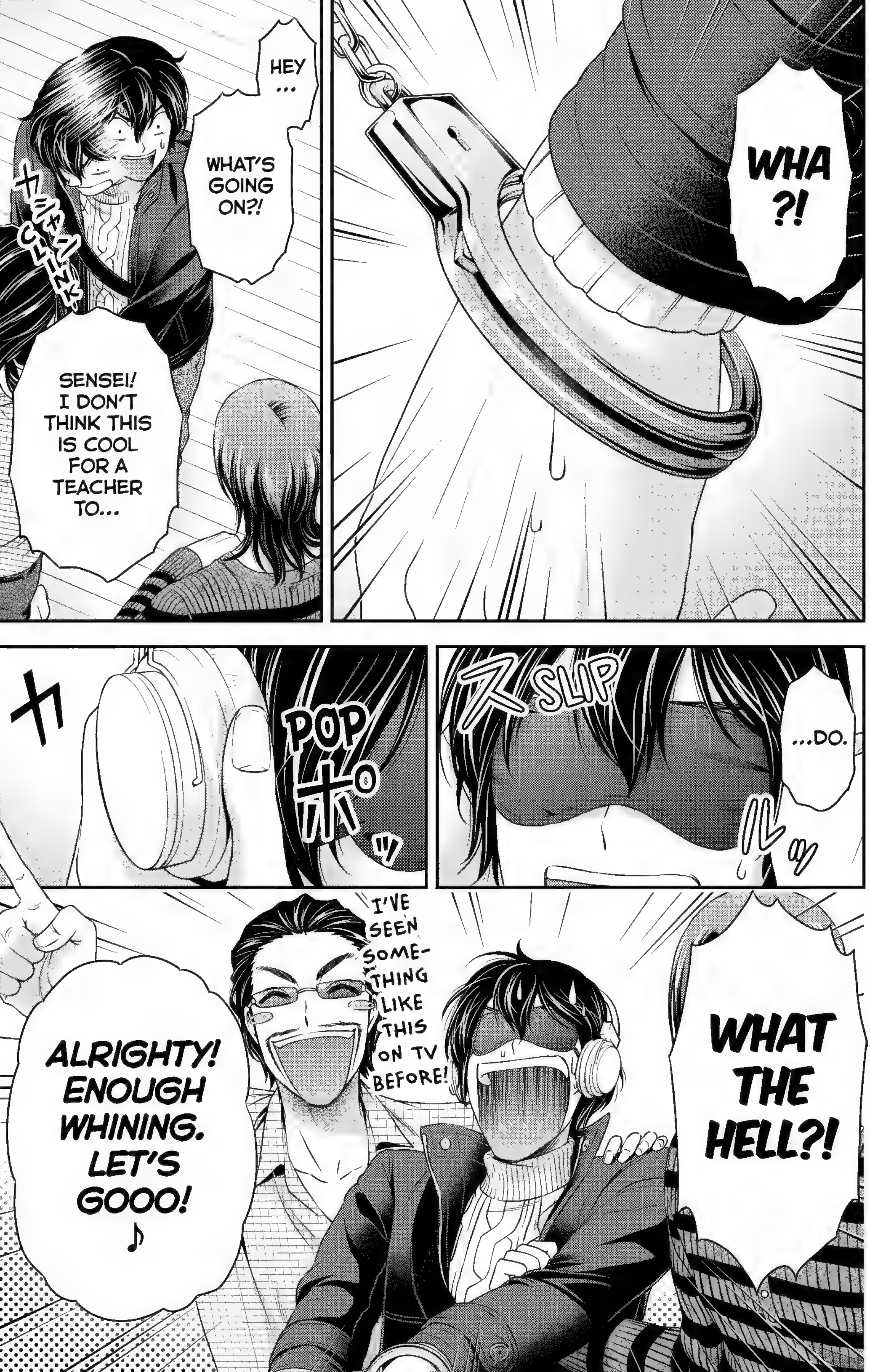

...THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO.
HEEEEY!
FWIP
SO, YOU'RE NATSUO FUJII-KUN!
HE-
HELLO.
WELL, WELL, WELL. IT'S REALLY NICE
GRAB
TO
BAT
BAT
MEET
BUMP
YOU!
HUG
PAT
PAT

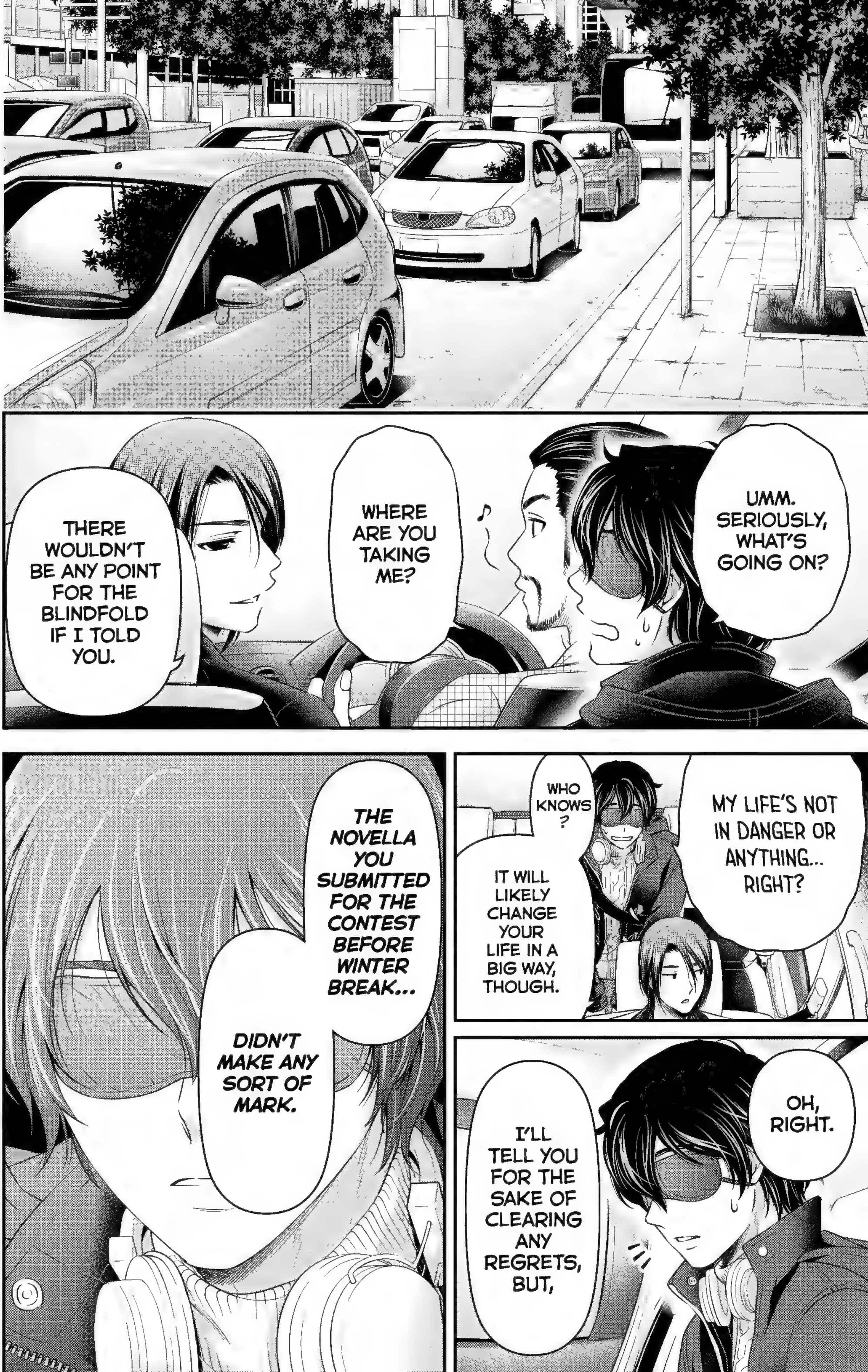

?
?
UMM... SORRY, BUT WHO IS THIS?
OH...
SORRY FOR THE LATE INTRODUCTION.
THE NAME'S SOICHIRO TSUTAYA.
I'M HERE...
...TO ABDUCT YOU.
WHAT?

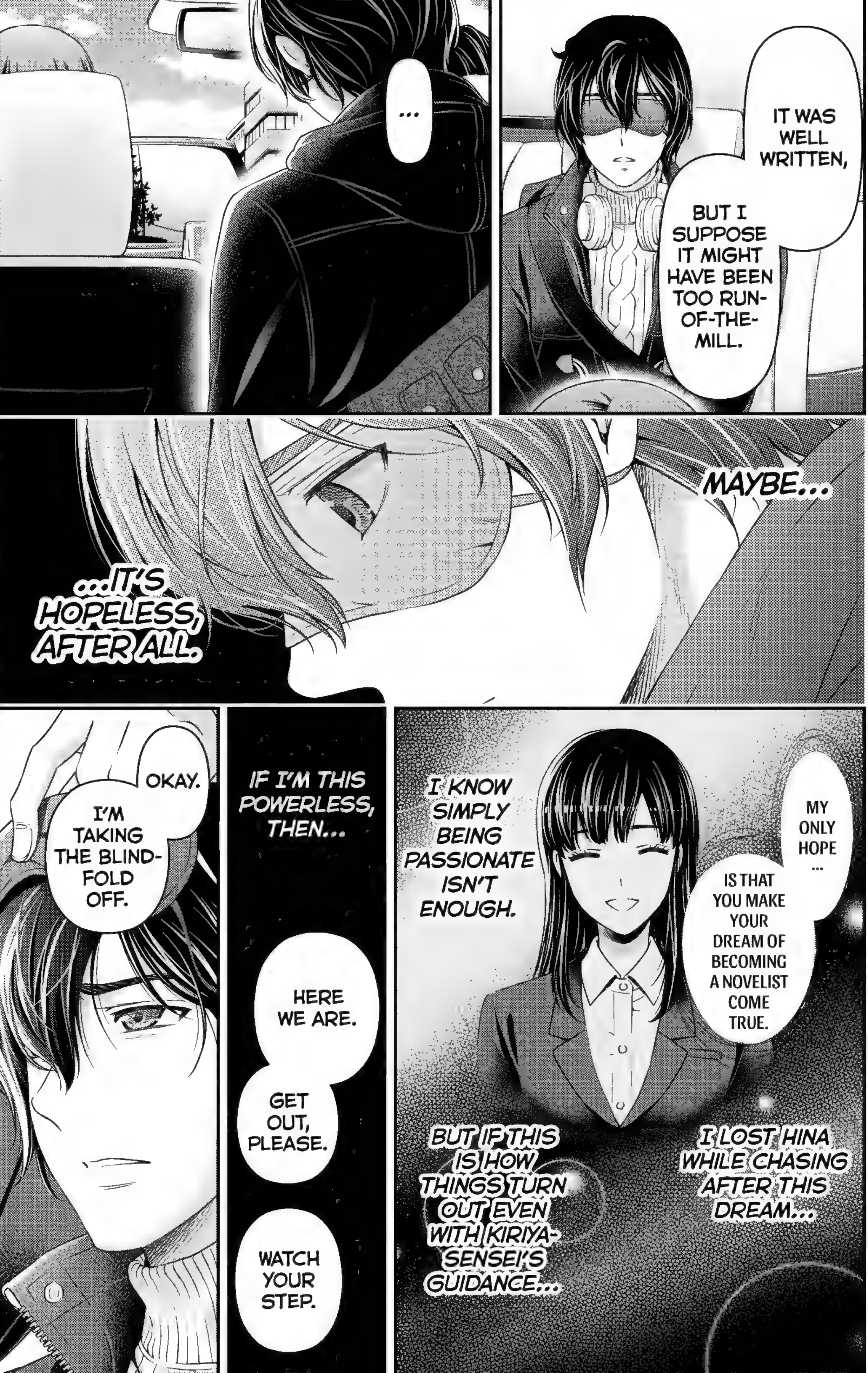
CHAPTER 70: TURNING POINT

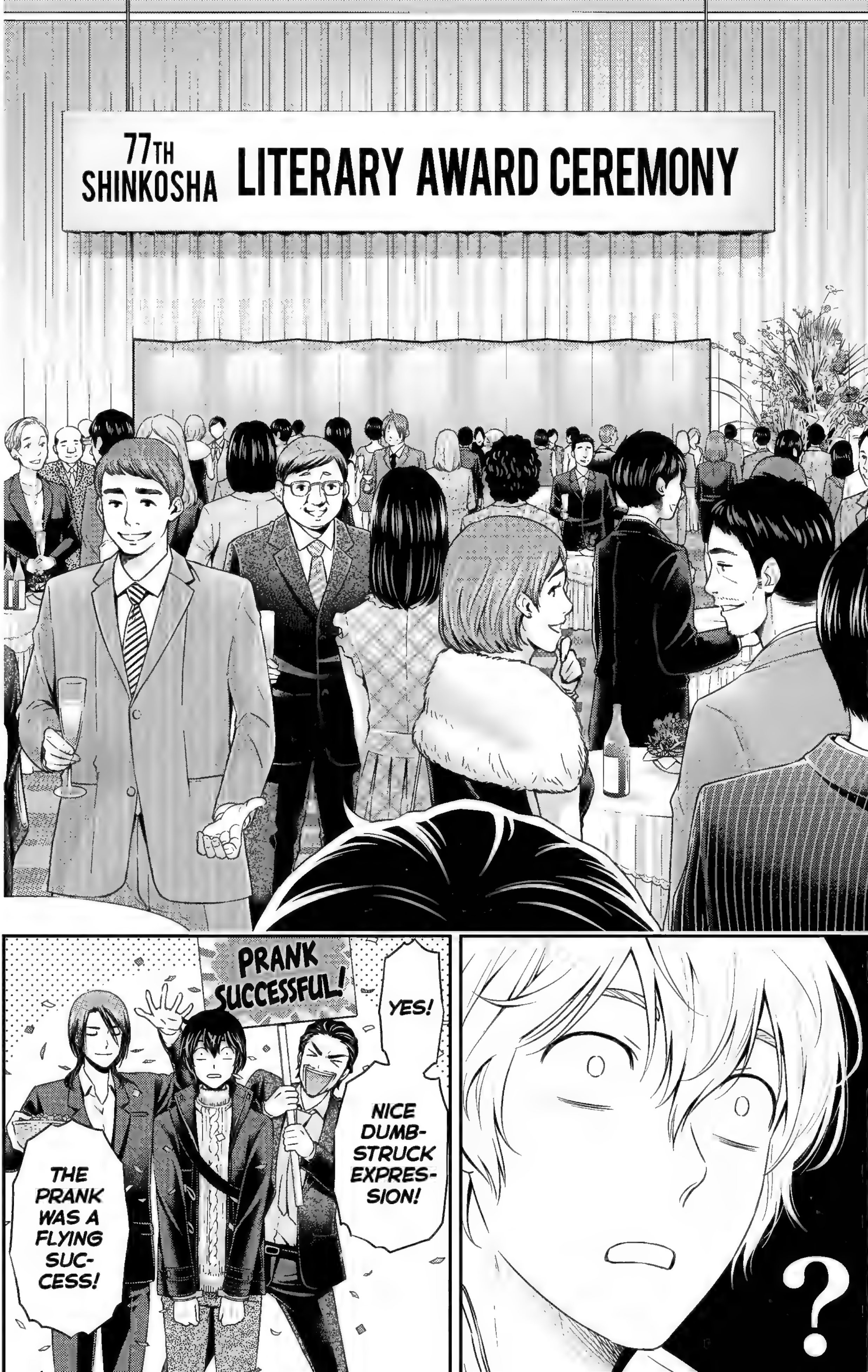

...
OH, SENSEI...
ASHIHARA-SAN SAID SHE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT MEMBER RECRUITMENT FOR NEXT YEAR.
HMM. BLATANTLY IGNORED, EH?

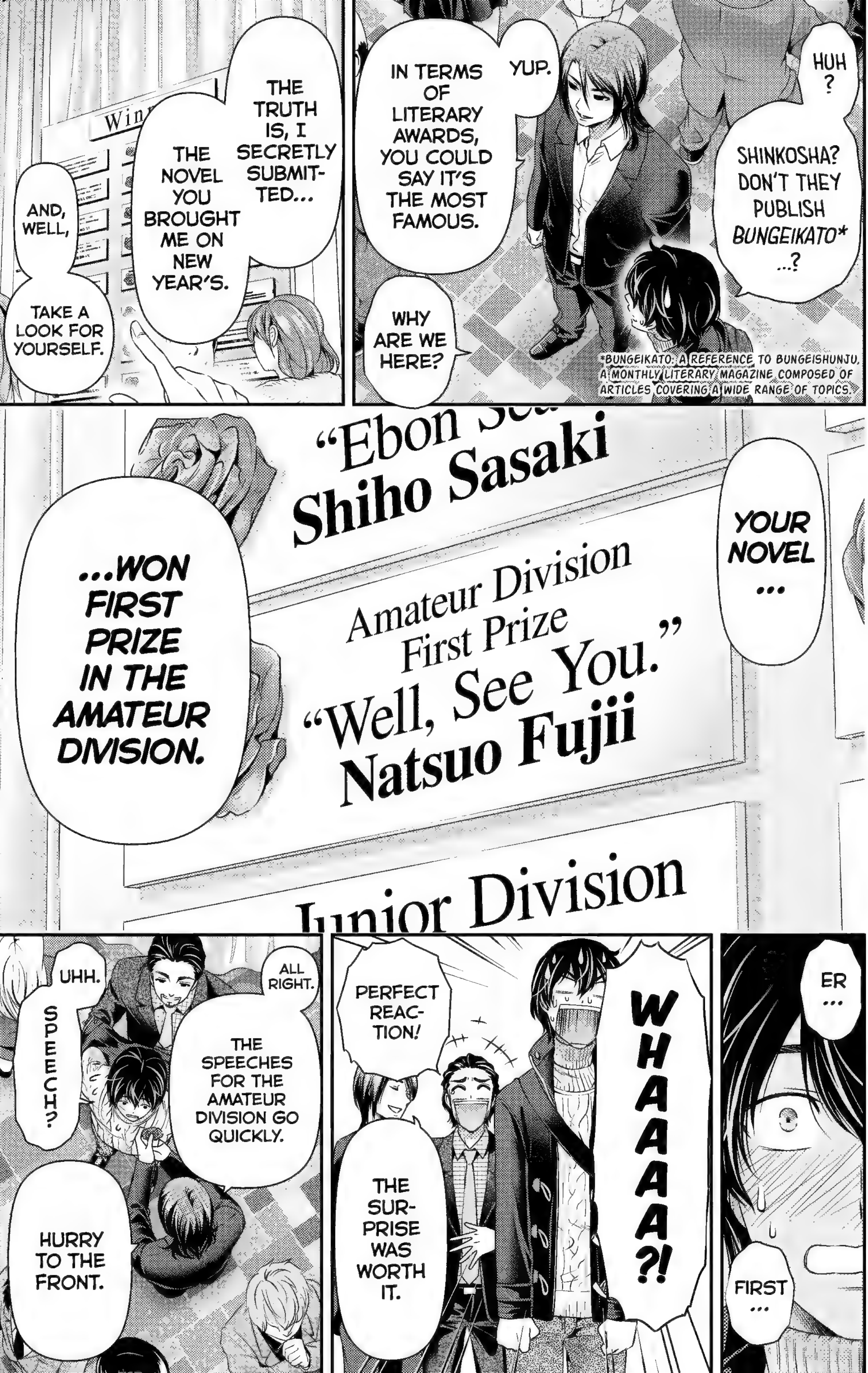

WELL, I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR BEING SKEPTICAL.
CHIK
THE TRUTH IS, I'M ACTUALLY A MEMBER OF AN UNDERWORLD SYNDICATE THAT HAS ALL OF JAPAN UNDER ITS THUMB.
I WAS ORDERED TO PROCURE ONE PERSON TO BE SOLD ON THE BLACK MARKET.
KIRIYA-KUN HERE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE SYNDICATE.
I'M A JAPANESE TEACHER SLASH NOVELIST SLASH MAFIOSO.
THAT'S KIND OF A STRETCH.
WHAT'S THE DEAL? FIRST YOU CALL ME OVER THEN BEAT AROUND THE BUSH...
IF YOU DON'T NEED ANYTHING, THEN I'M GONNA EXCUSE MYSELF!
C'MON, DON'T BE SO PRICKLY!
AND I'M ASKING *WHAT* YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT!
LET'S TALK FOR A WHILE, OKAY?
YOU'VE JUST BEEN MESSING WITH ME THE WHOLE–
CLINK
カシャンッ
HM?
CLINK?


WHA?!
HEY...
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
ガシャン CLINK
SENSEI! I DON'T THINK THIS IS COOL FOR A TEACHER TO...
スルッ SLIP
...DO.
ポッ POP
カ
WHAT THE HELL?!
I'VE SEEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS ON TV BEFORE!
ALRIGHTY! ENOUGH WHINING. LET'S GOOO! ♪

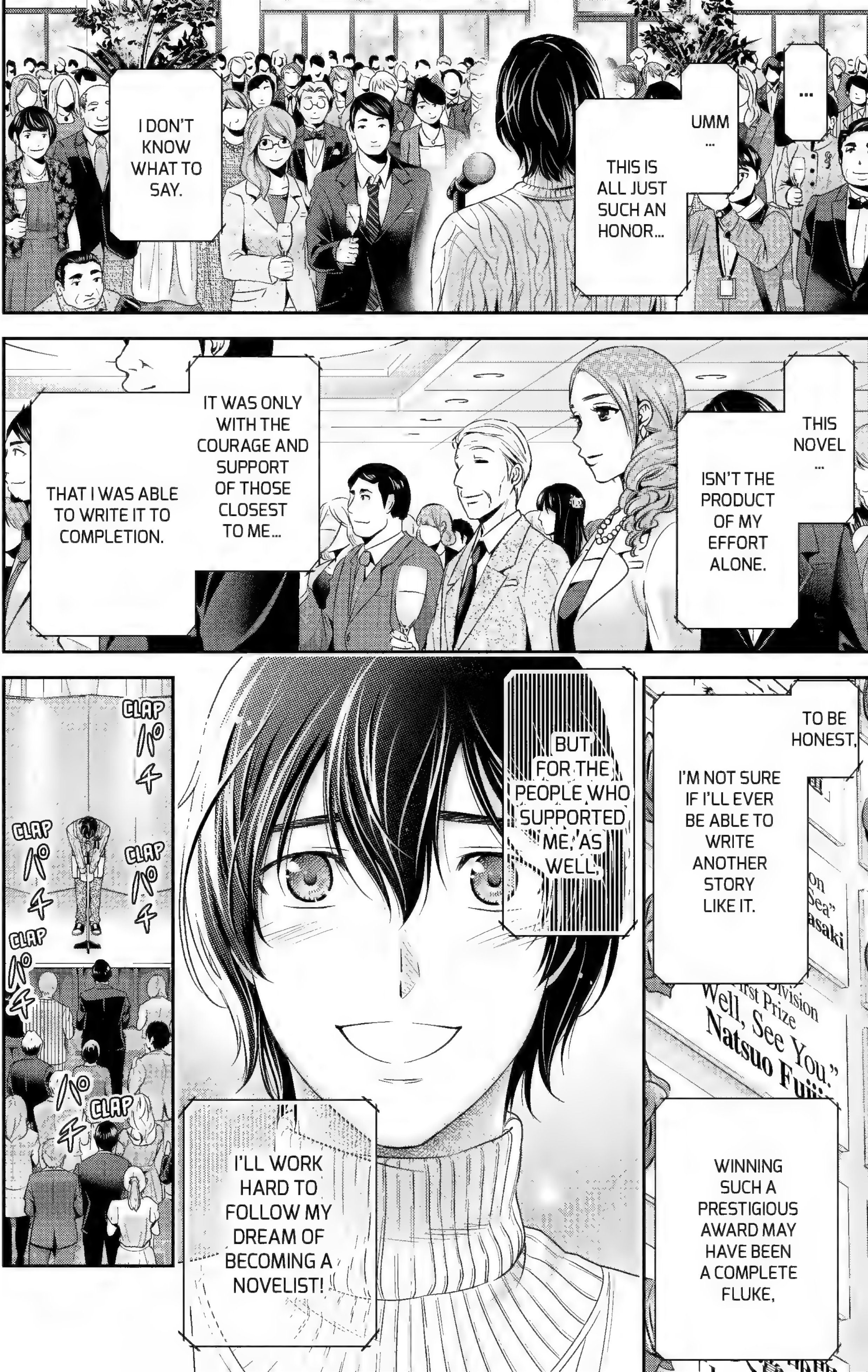

UMM. SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
♪
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY POINT FOR THE BLINDFOLD IF I TOLD YOU.
MY LIFE'S NOT IN DANGER OR ANYTHING... RIGHT?
WHO KNOWS?
IT WILL LIKELY CHANGE YOUR LIFE IN A BIG WAY, THOUGH.
OH, RIGHT.
I'LL TELL YOU FOR THE SAKE OF CLEARING ANY REGRETS, BUT,
THE NOVELLA YOU SUBMITTED FOR THE CONTEST BEFORE WINTER BREAK...
DIDN'T MAKE ANY SORT OF MARK.

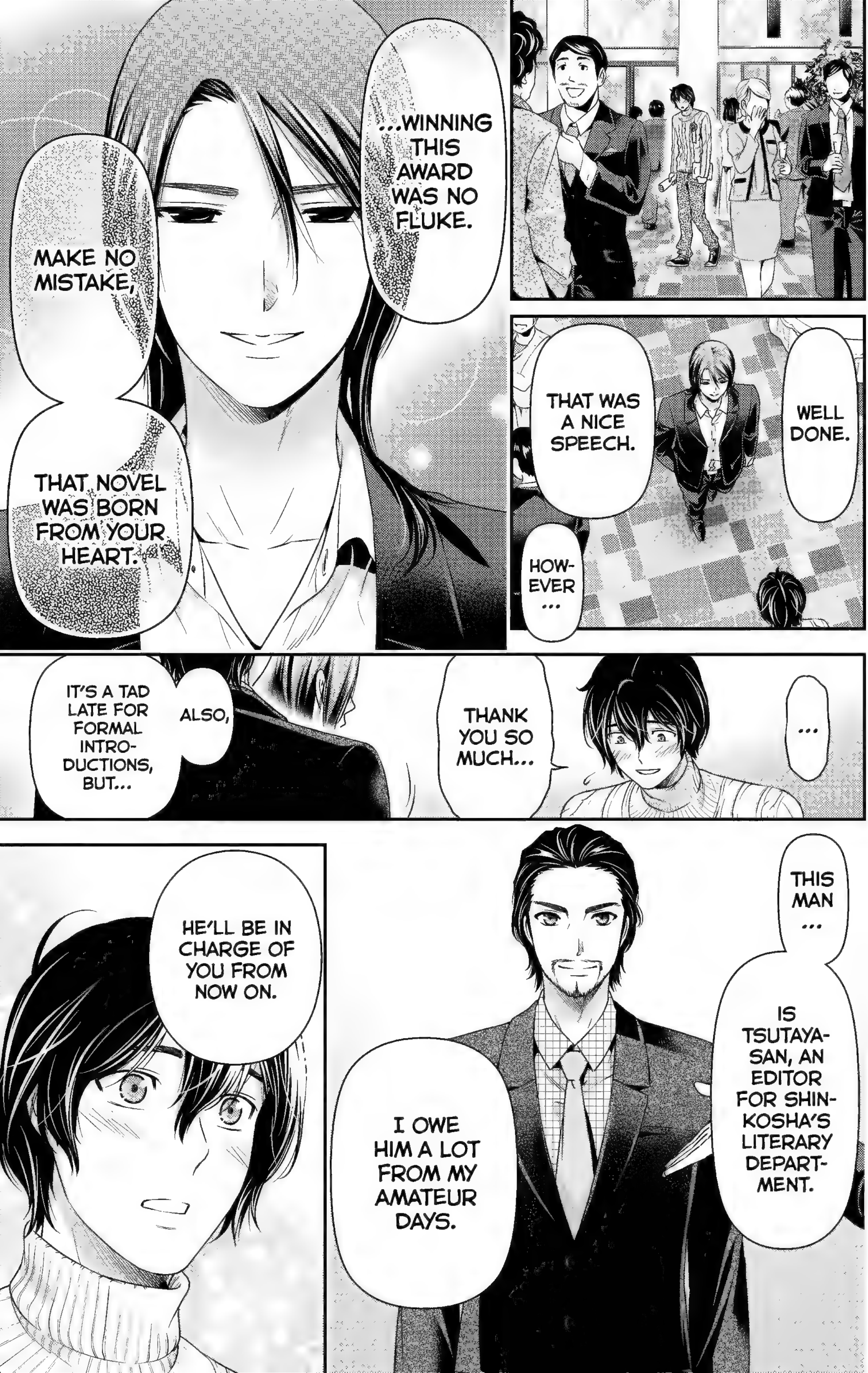

IT WAS WELL WRITTEN,
BUT I SUPPOSE IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN TOO RUN-OF-THE-MILL.
...
MAYBE...
...IT'S HOPELESS, AFTER ALL.
MY ONLY HOPE...
IS THAT YOU MAKE YOUR DREAM OF BECOMING A NOVELIST COME TRUE.
I KNOW SIMPLY BEING PASSIONATE ISN'T ENOUGH.
I LOST HINA WHILE CHASING AFTER THIS DREAM...
BUT IF THIS IS HOW THINGS TURN OUT EVEN WITH KIRIYA-SENSEI'S GUIDANCE...
IF I'M THIS POWERLESS, THEN...
HERE WE ARE.
GET OUT, PLEASE.
WATCH YOUR STEP.
OKAY.
I'M TAKING THE BLINDFOLD OFF.

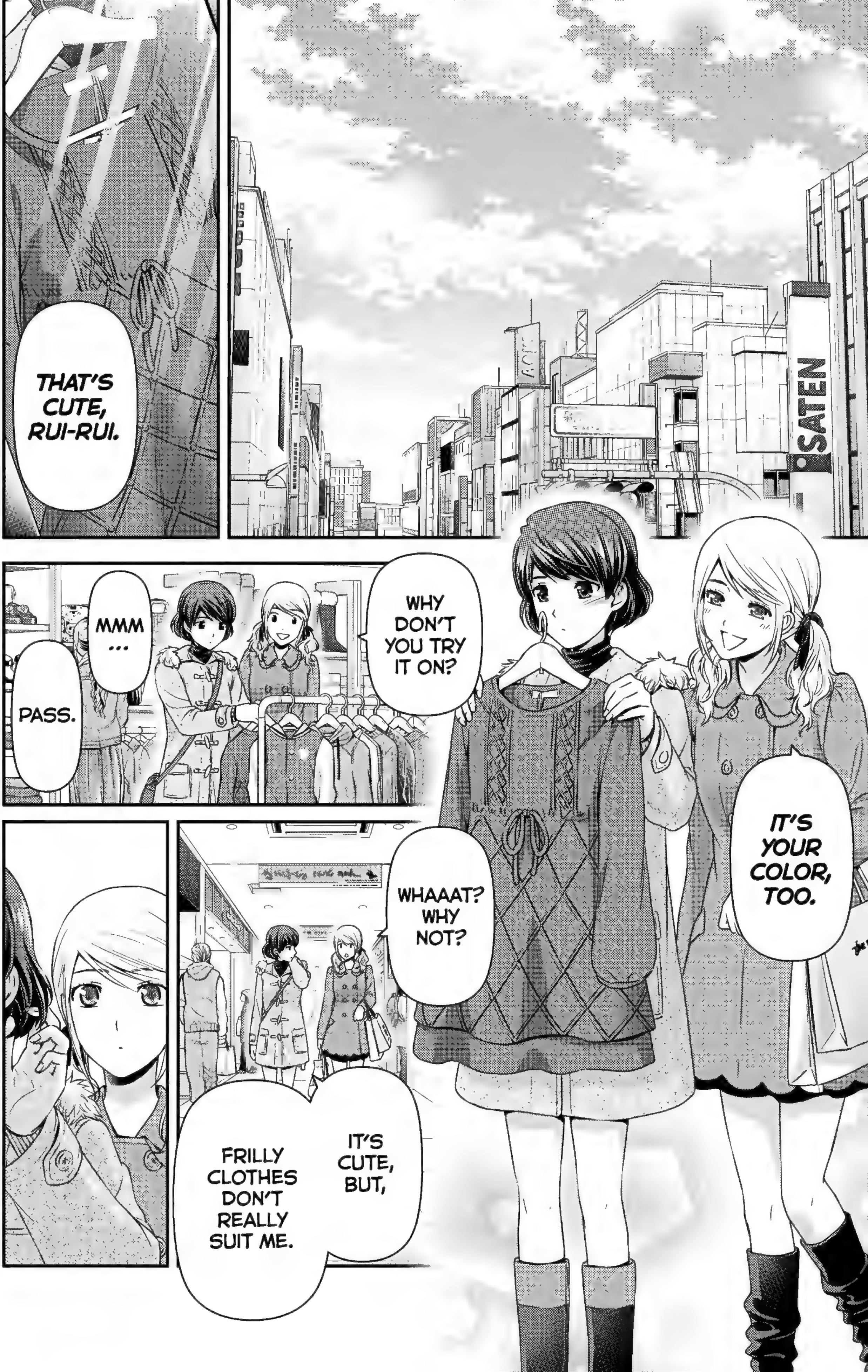

77TH SHINKOSHA LITERARY AWARD CEREMONY
?
PRANK SUCCESSFUL!
YES!
NICE DUMBSTRUCK EXPRESSION!
THE PRANK WAS A FLYING SUCCESS!

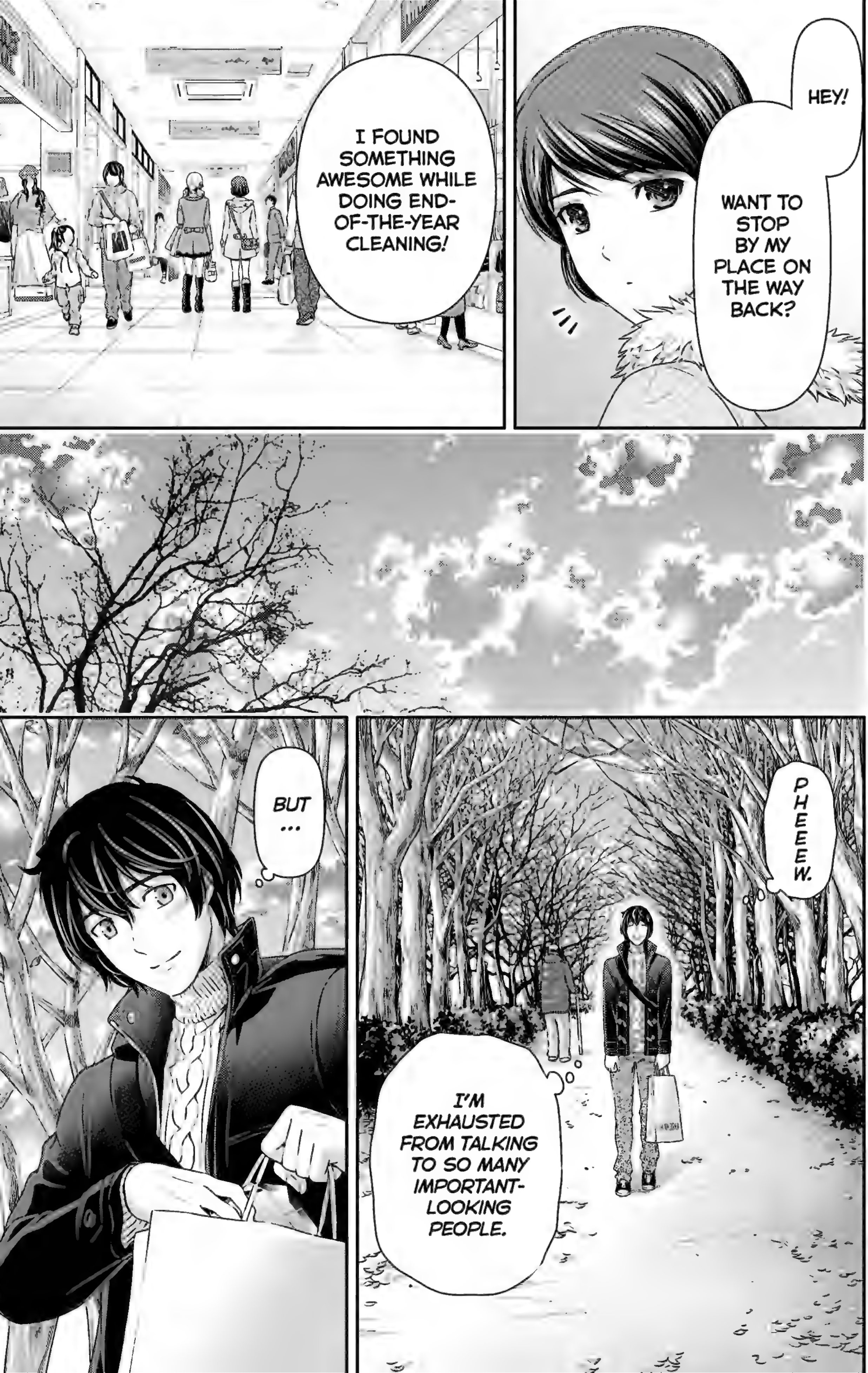

HUH?
SHINKOSHA? DON'T THEY PUBLISH *BUNGEIKATO**...?
YUP.
IN TERMS OF LITERARY AWARDS, YOU COULD SAY IT'S THE MOST FAMOUS.
WHY ARE WE HERE?
THE TRUTH IS, I SECRETLY SUBMITTED...
THE NOVEL YOU BROUGHT ME ON NEW YEAR'S.
AND, WELL,
TAKE A LOOK FOR YOURSELF.
Win
YOUR NOVEL...
"Ebon Sea
Shiho Sasaki
Amateur Division
First Prize
"Well, See You."
Natsuo Fujii
Junior Division
...WON FIRST PRIZE IN THE AMATEUR DIVISION.
ER...
FIRST...
WHAAAAA?!
PERFECT REACTION!
THE SURPRISE WAS WORTH IT.
ALL RIGHT.
UHH.
SPEECH?
THE SPEECHES FOR THE AMATEUR DIVISION GO QUICKLY.
HURRY TO THE FRONT.

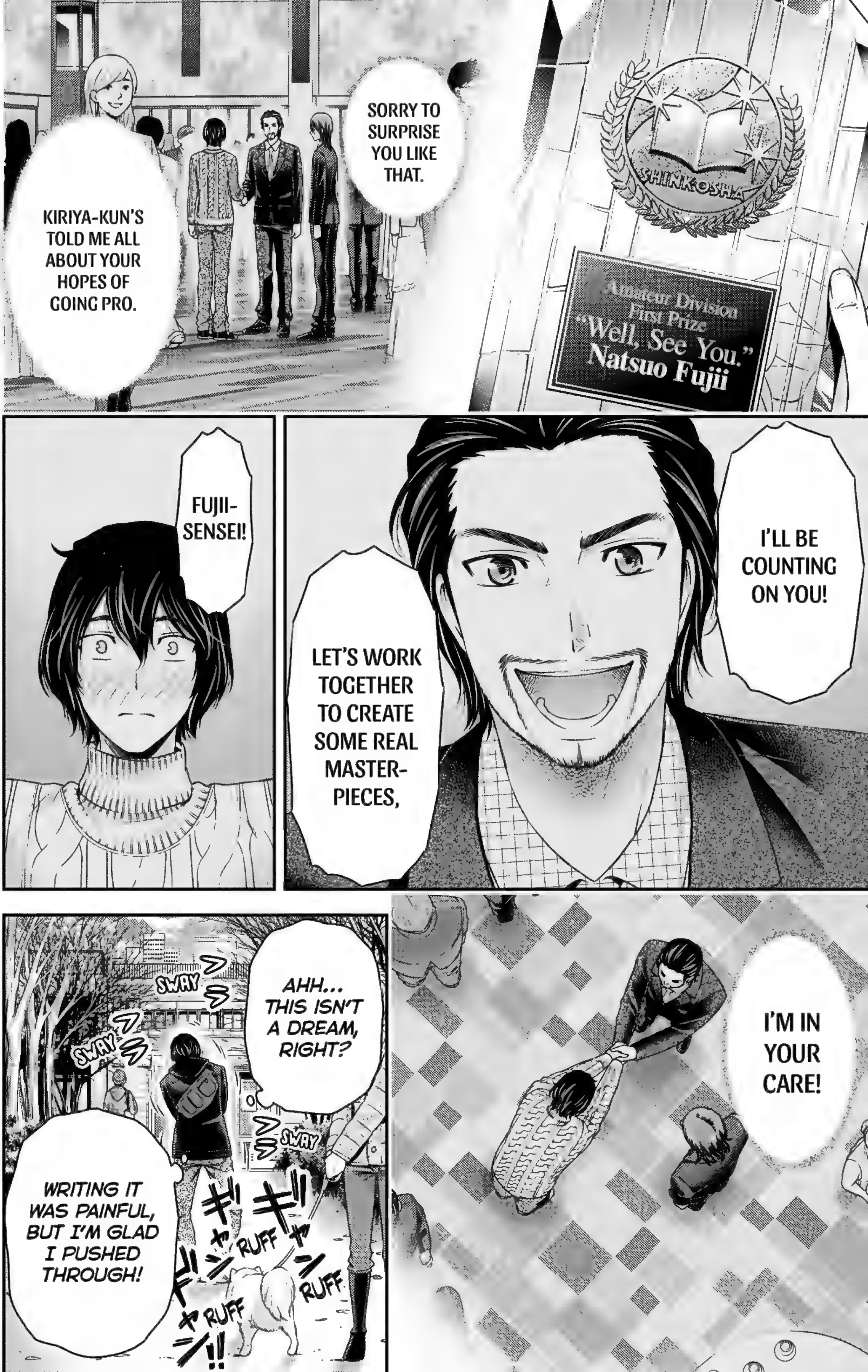
*BUNGEIKATO: A REFERENCE TO BUNGEISHUNJU, A MONTHLY LITERARY MAGAZINE COMPOSED OF ARTICLES COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS.

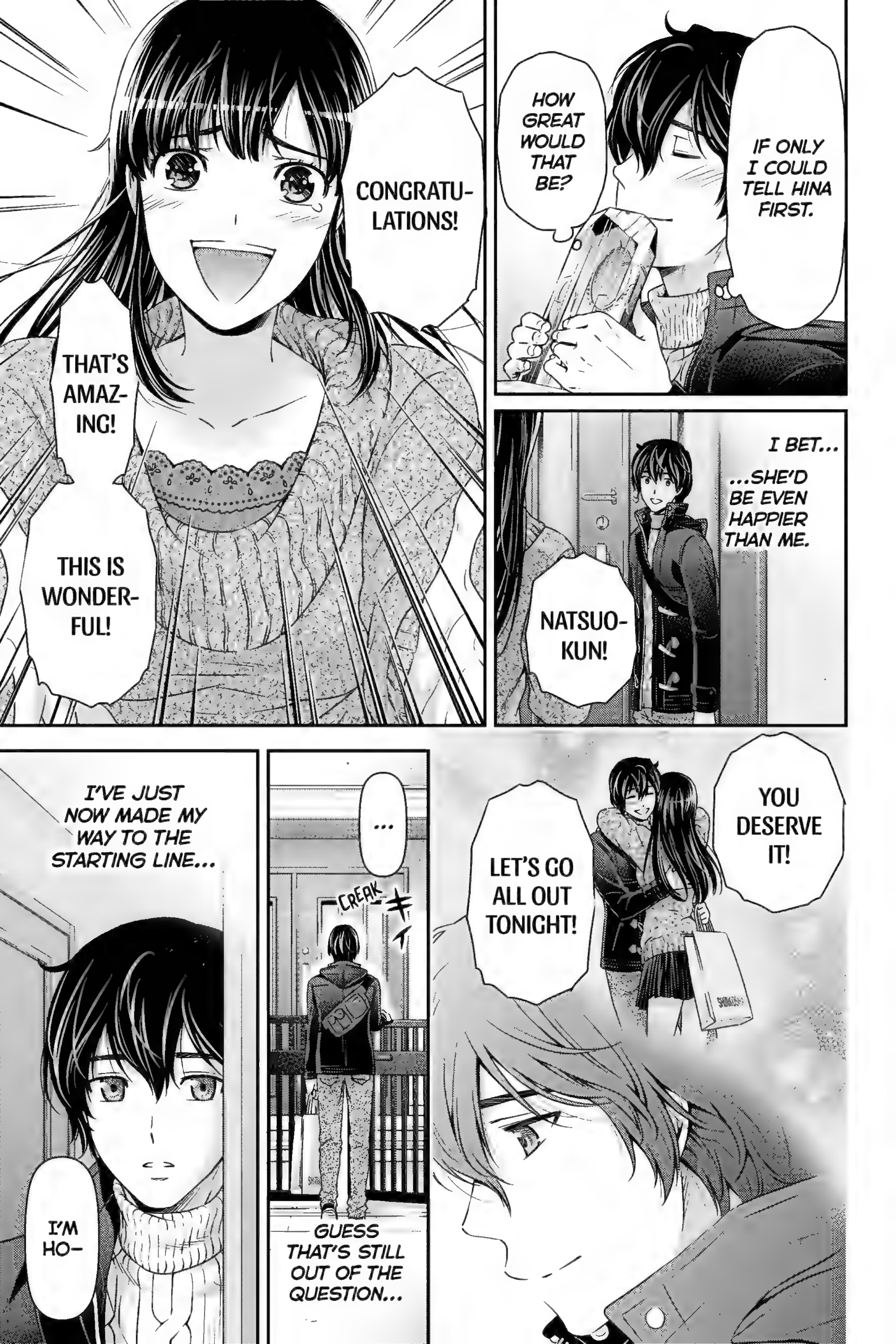

...
UMM ... THIS IS ALL JUST SUCH AN HONOR...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
THIS NOVEL ...
ISN'T THE PRODUCT OF MY EFFORT ALONE.
IT WAS ONLY WITH THE COURAGE AND SUPPORT OF THOSE CLOSEST TO ME...
THAT I WAS ABLE TO WRITE IT TO COMPLETION.
TO BE HONEST,
I'M NOT SURE IF I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO WRITE ANOTHER STORY LIKE IT.
on Sea"
asaki
Division
rst Prize
Well, See You."
Natsuo Fuji
WINNING SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS AWARD MAY HAVE BEEN A COMPLETE FLUKE,
BUT FOR THE PEOPLE WHO SUPPORTED ME, AS WELL,
I'LL WORK HARD TO FOLLOW MY DREAM OF BECOMING A NOVELIST!
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
パチ CLAP

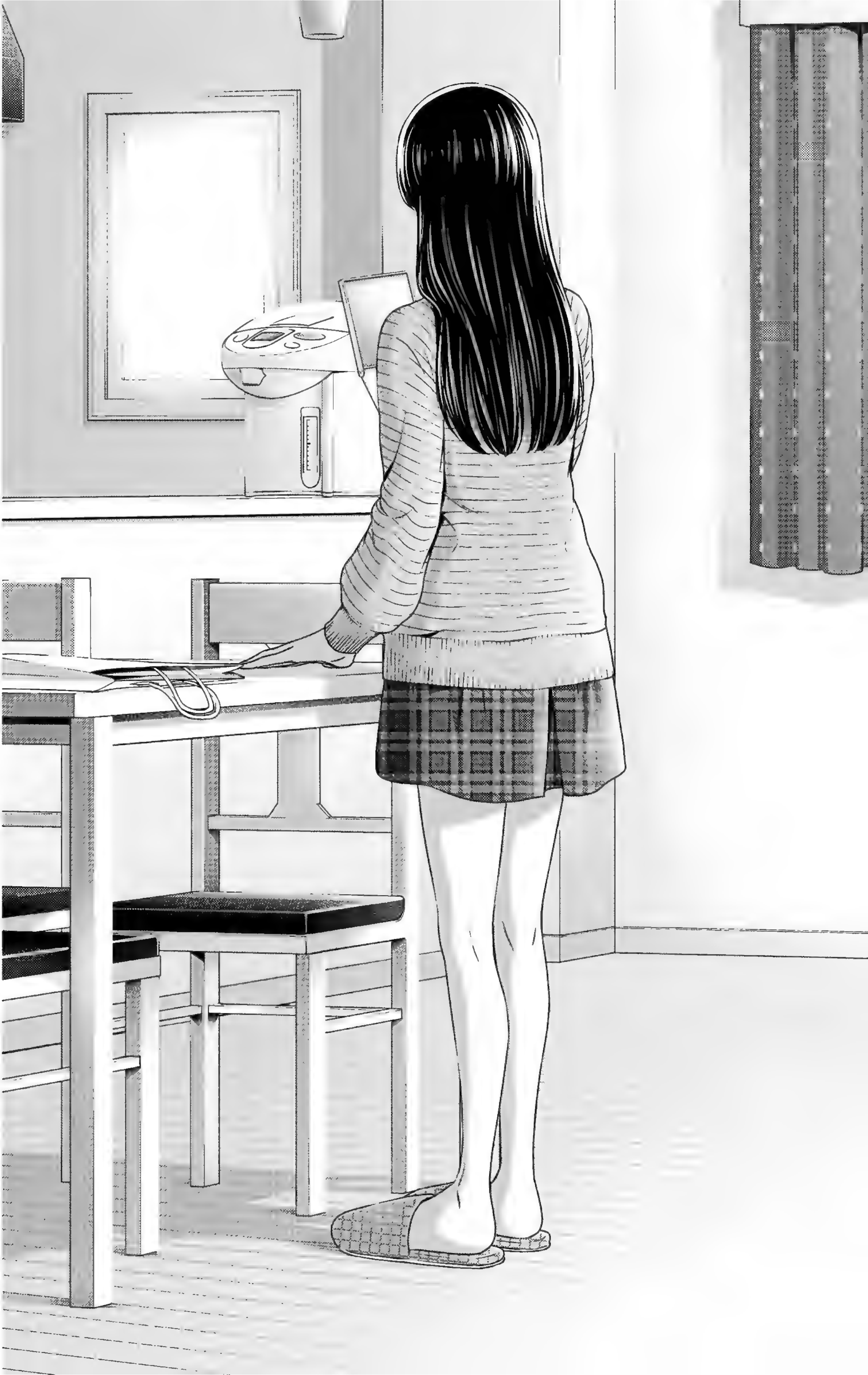

WELL DONE.
THAT WAS A NICE SPEECH.
HOWEVER...
...WINNING THIS AWARD WAS NO FLUKE.
MAKE NO MISTAKE,
THAT NOVEL WAS BORN FROM YOUR HEART.
...
THANK YOU SO MUCH...
ALSO,
IT'S A TAD LATE FOR FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS, BUT...
THIS MAN...
IS TSUTAYA-SAN, AN EDITOR FOR SHINKOSHA'S LITERARY DEPARTMENT.
I OWE HIM A LOT FROM MY AMATEUR DAYS.
HE'LL BE IN CHARGE OF YOU FROM NOW ON.

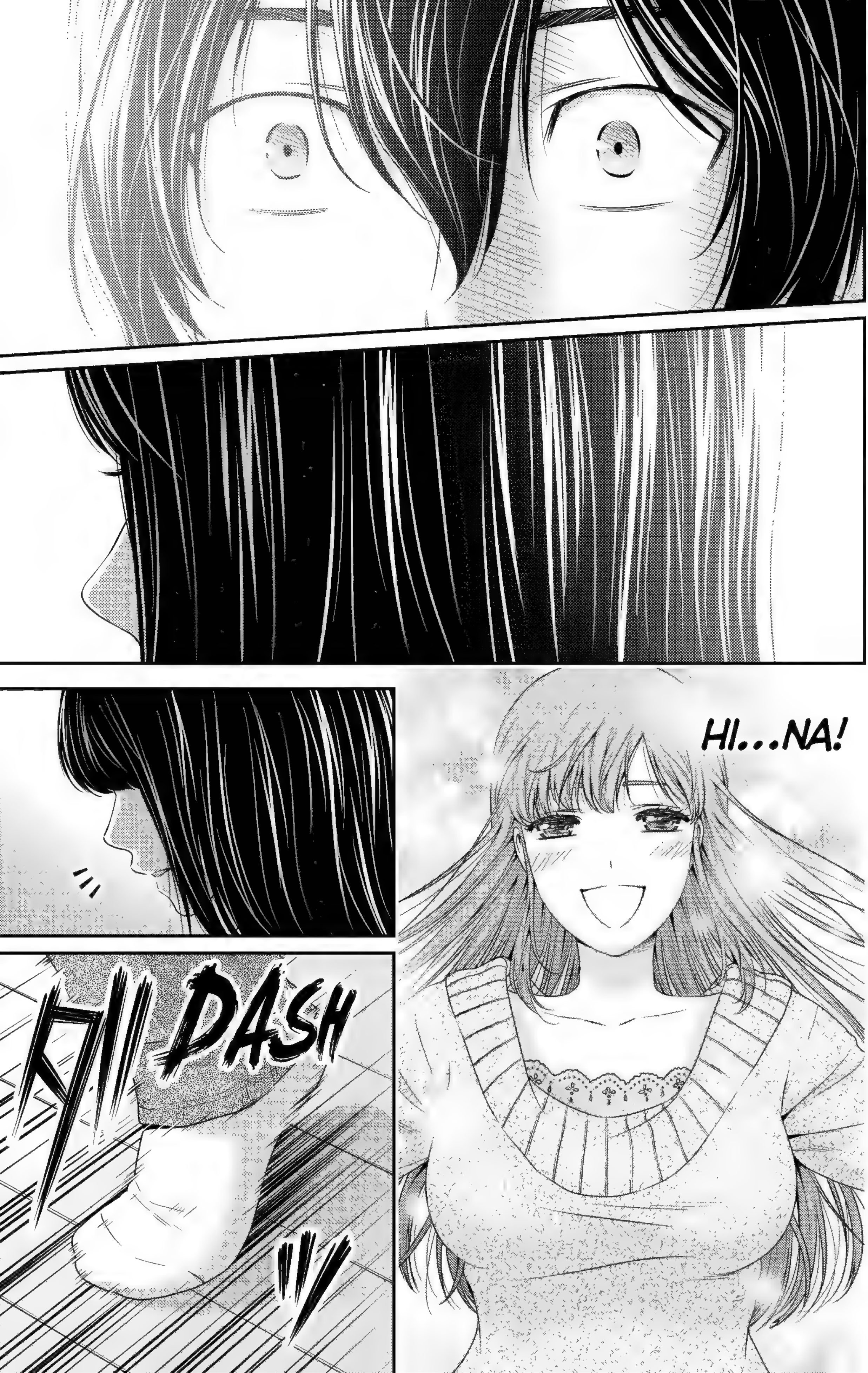

SATEN
THAT'S CUTE, RUI-RUI.
IT'S YOUR COLOR, TOO.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT ON?
MMM...
PASS.
WHAAAT? WHY NOT?
IT'S CUTE, BUT,
FRILLY CLOTHES DON'T REALLY SUIT ME.

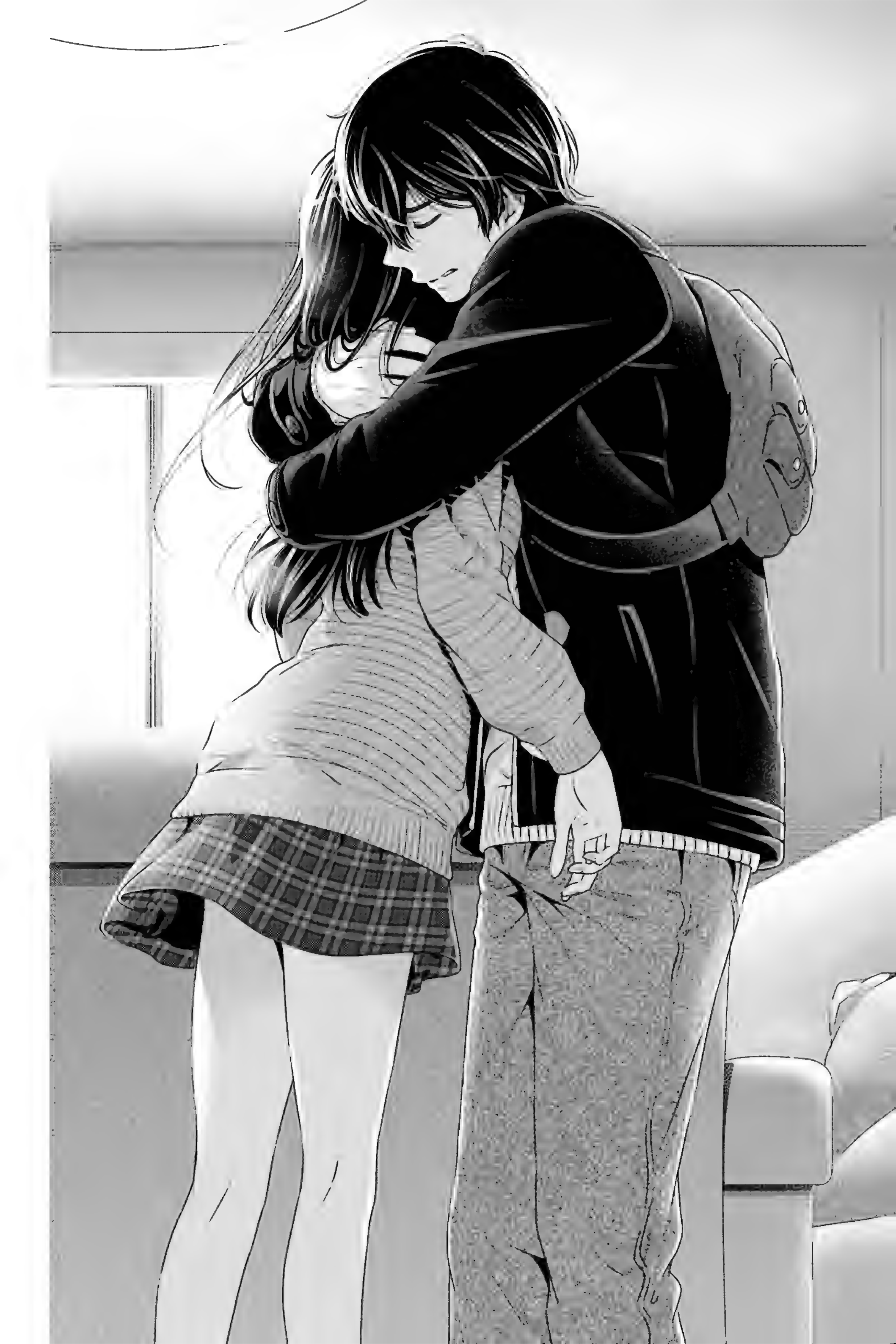

HEY!
WANT TO STOP BY MY PLACE ON THE WAY BACK?
I FOUND SOMETHING AWESOME WHILE DOING END-OF-THE-YEAR CLEANING!
PHEEEW.
I'M EXHAUSTED FROM TALKING TO SO MANY IMPORTANT-LOOKING PEOPLE.
BUT...

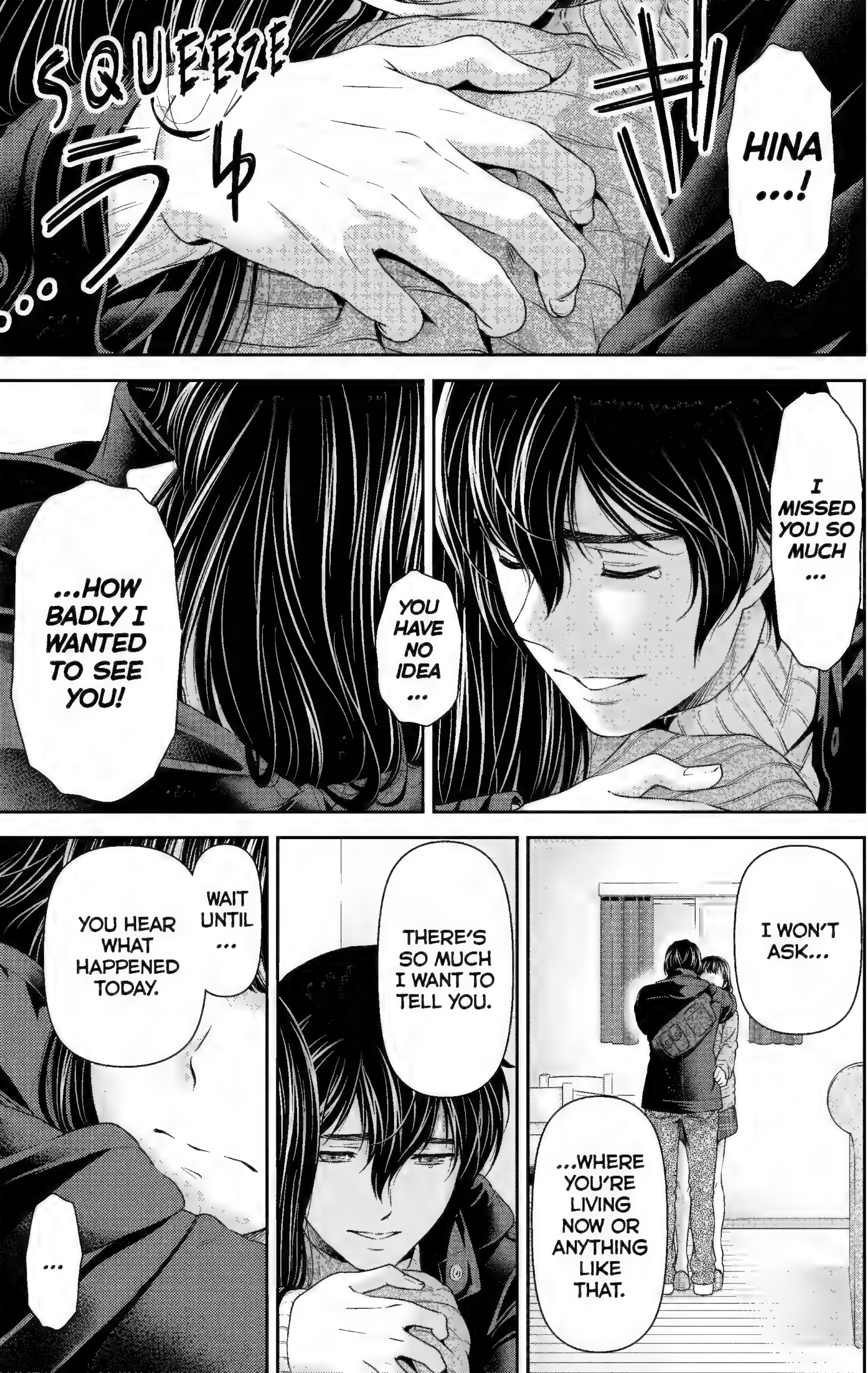

SHINKOSHA
Amateur Division First Prize "Well, See You." Natsuo Fujii
SORRY TO SURPRISE YOU LIKE THAT.
KIRIYA-KUN'S TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOUR HOPES OF GOING PRO.
I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU!
LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE SOME REAL MASTERPIECES,
FUJII-SENSEI!
I'M IN YOUR CARE!
SWAY
SWAY
AHH... THIS ISN'T A DREAM, RIGHT?
SWAY
WRITING IT WAS PAINFUL, BUT I'M GLAD I PUSHED THROUGH!
RUFF
RUFF
RUFF

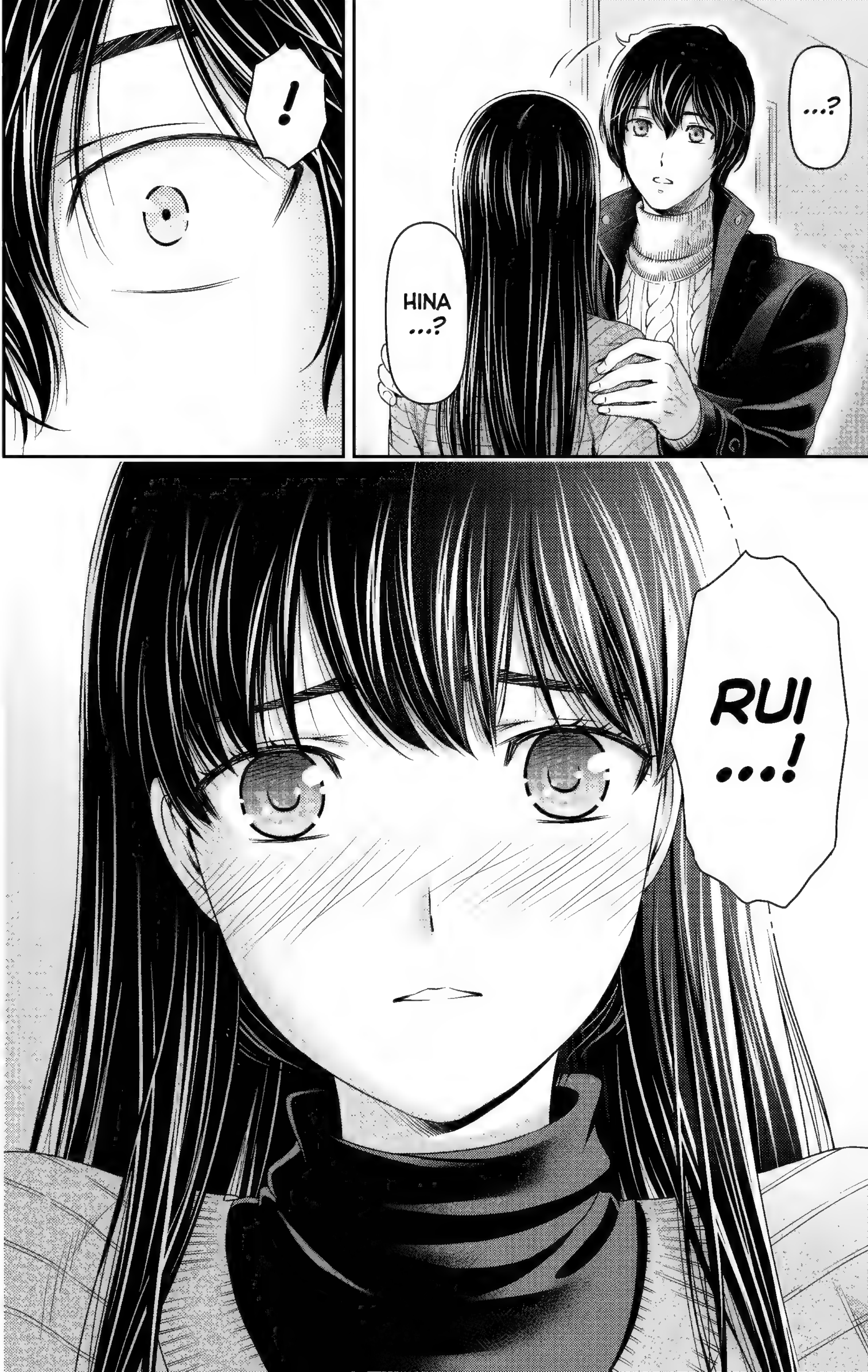

IF ONLY I COULD TELL HINA FIRST.
HOW GREAT WOULD THAT BE?
I BET...
...SHE'D BE EVEN HAPPIER THAN ME.
NATSUO-KUN!
CONGRATULATIONS!
THAT'S AMAZING!
THIS IS WONDERFUL!
YOU DESERVE IT!
LET'S GO ALL OUT TONIGHT!
...
CREAK
キイ
GUESS THAT'S STILL OUT OF THE QUESTION...
I'VE JUST NOW MADE MY WAY TO THE STARTING LINE...
I'M HO-



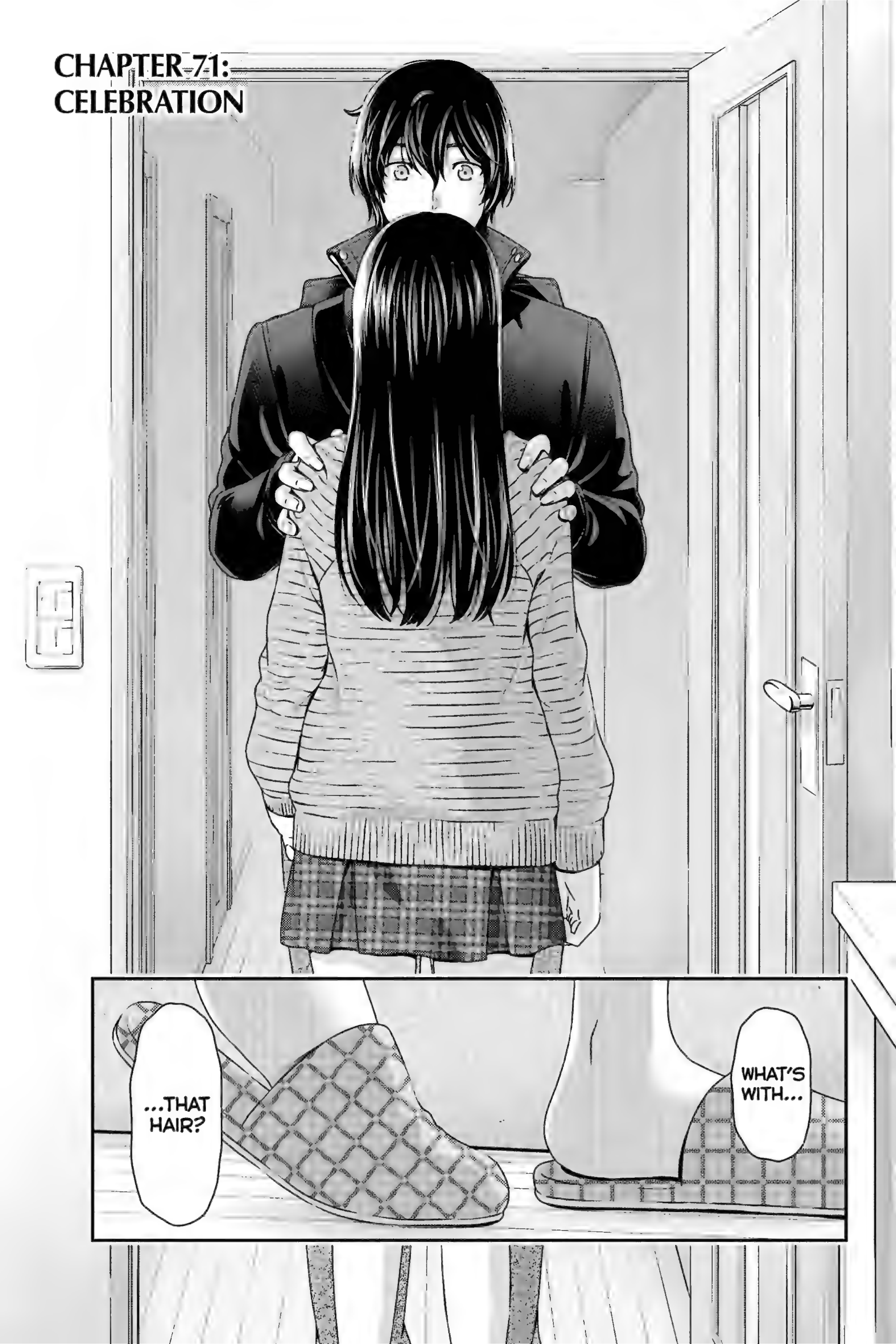

HI...NA!
DASH

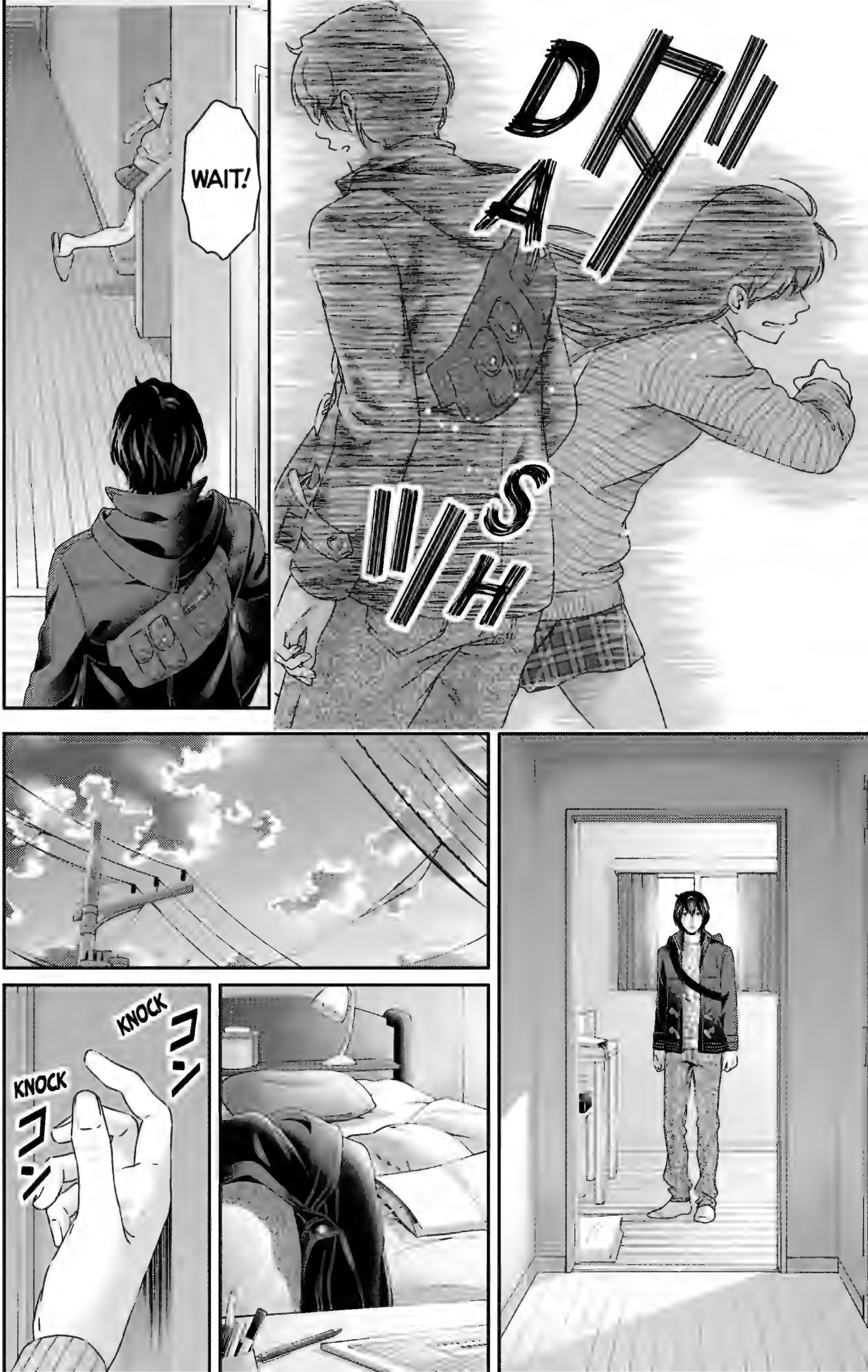


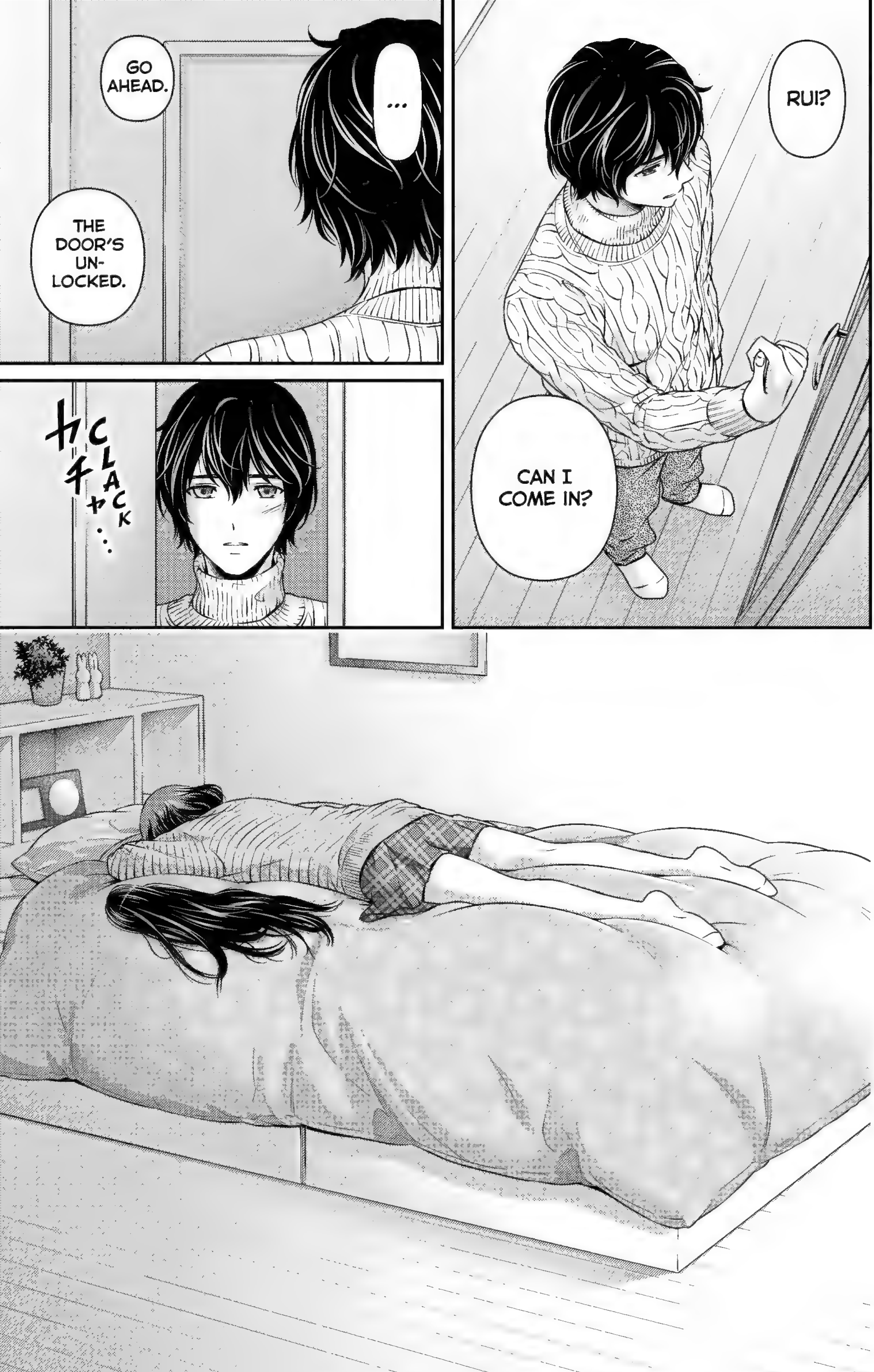

HINA ...!
SQUEEZE
I MISSED YOU SO MUCH ...
YOU HAVE NO IDEA ...
...HOW BADLY I WANTED TO SEE YOU!
I WON'T ASK...
...WHERE YOU'RE LIVING NOW OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO TELL YOU.
WAIT UNTIL ...
YOU HEAR WHAT HAPPENED TODAY.
...

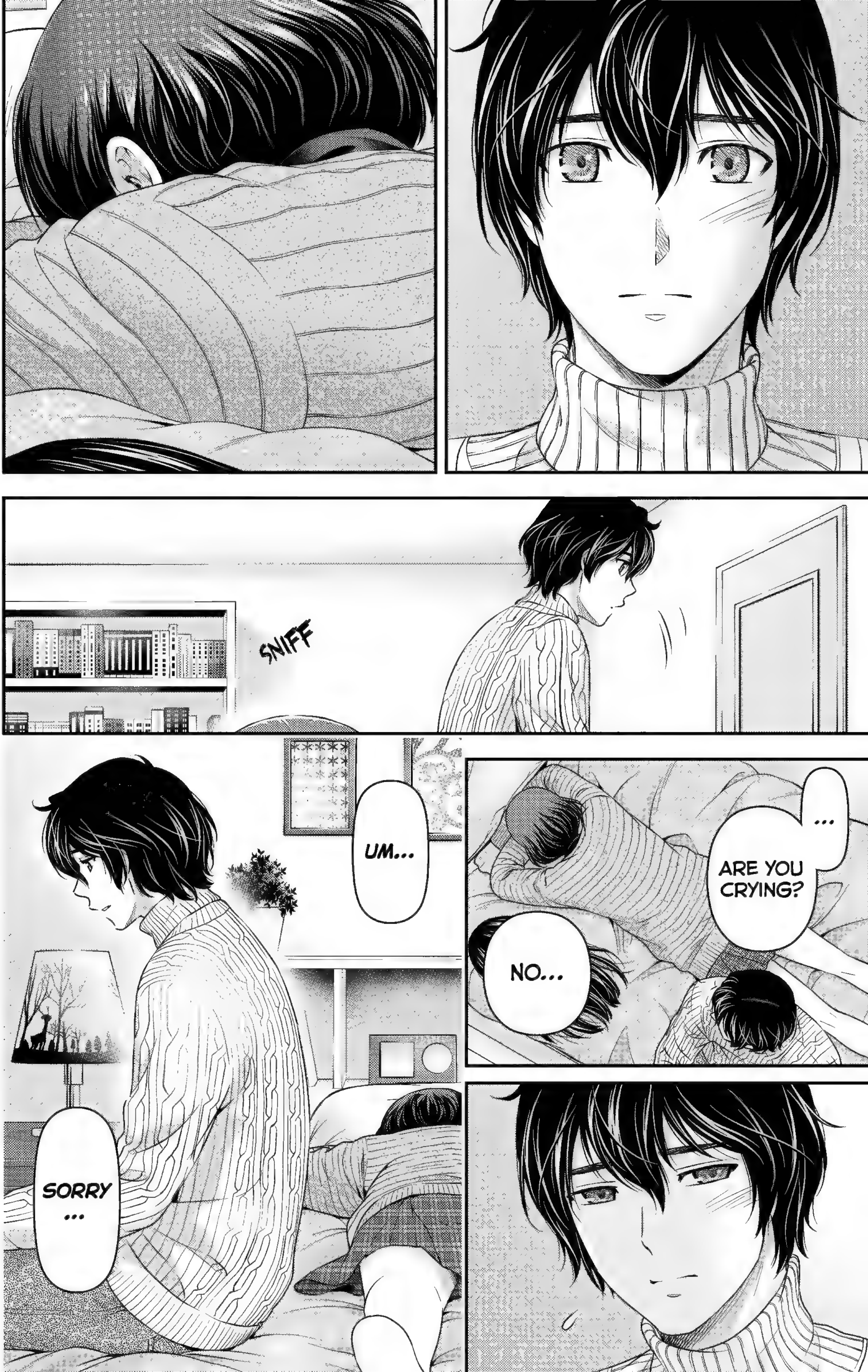

...?
HINA ...?
!
RUI ...!

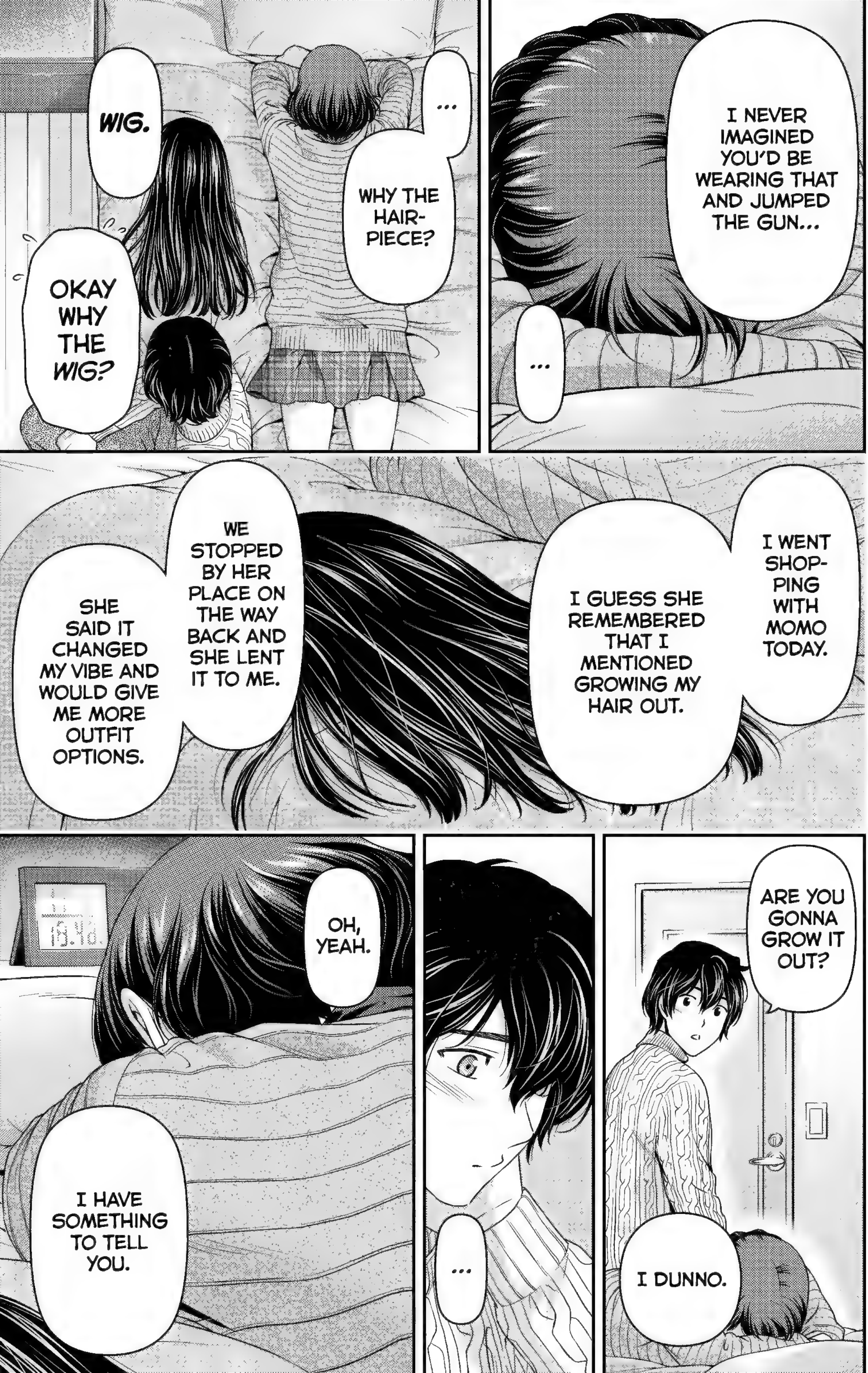
CHAPTER 71: CELEBRATION

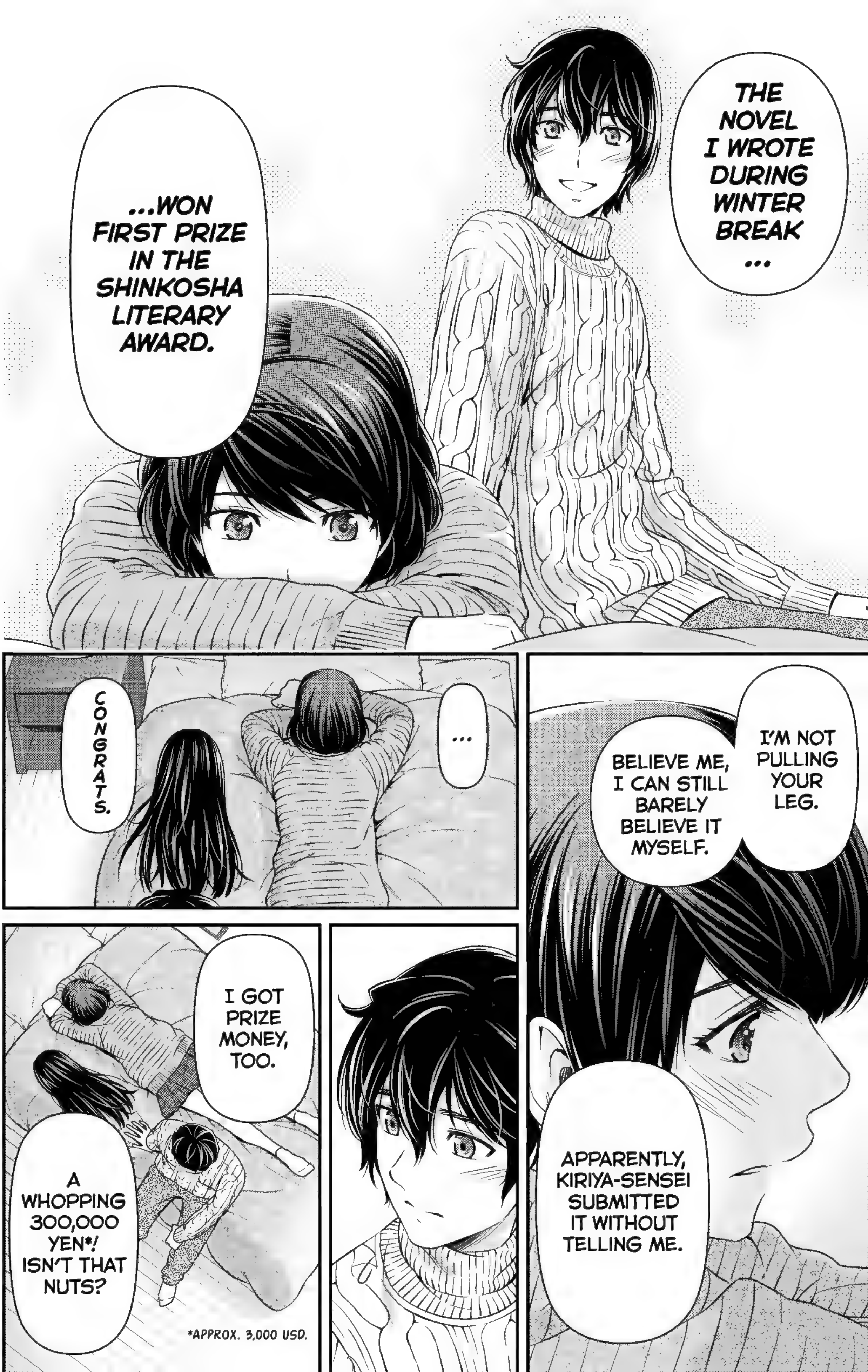

WHAT'S WITH...
...THAT HAIR?


DA
ダッ
SH
WAIT!
KNOCK
コン
KNOCK
コン

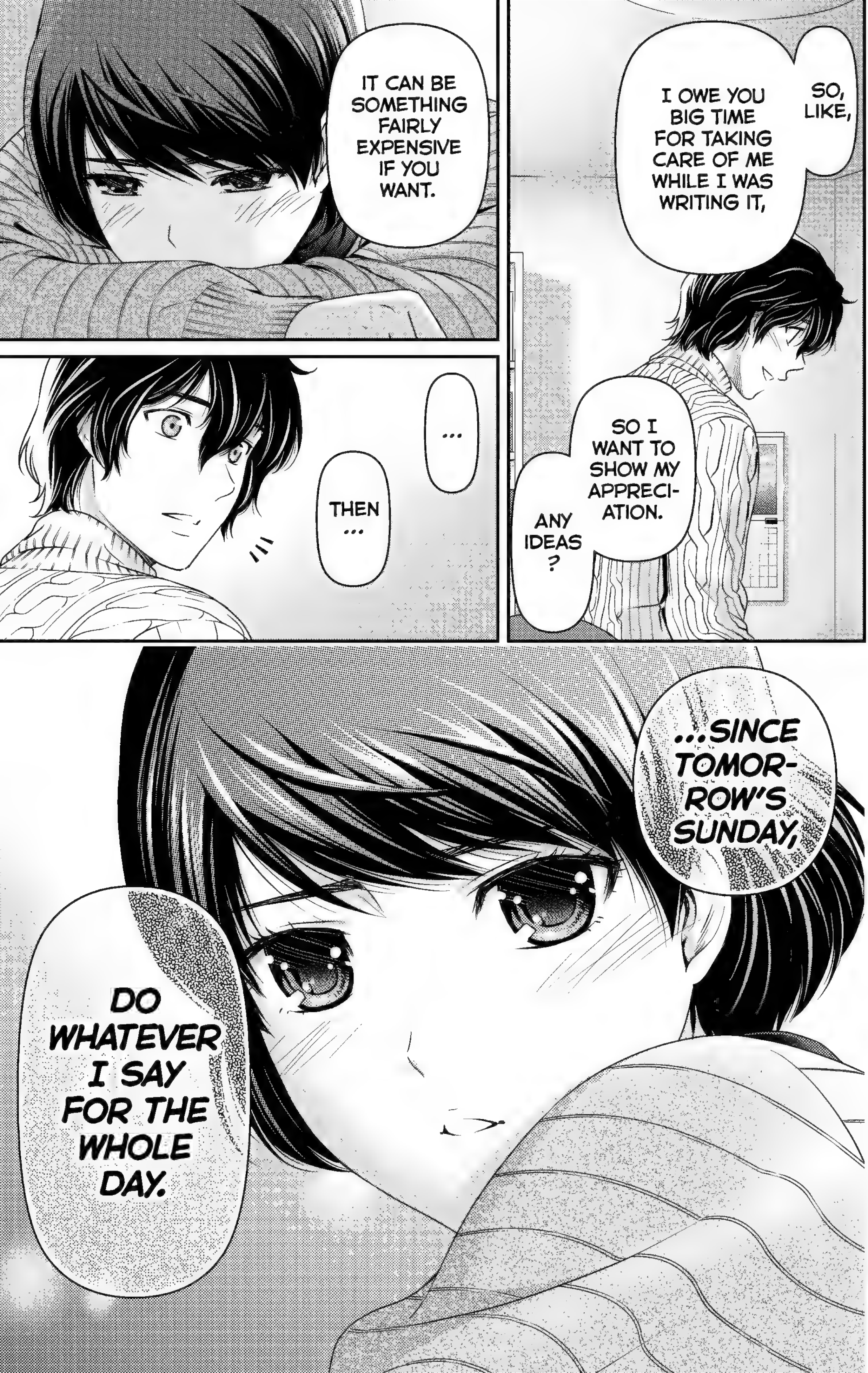

RUI?
CAN I COME IN?
...
GO AHEAD.
THE DOOR'S UNLOCKED.
カチャ
CLACK...

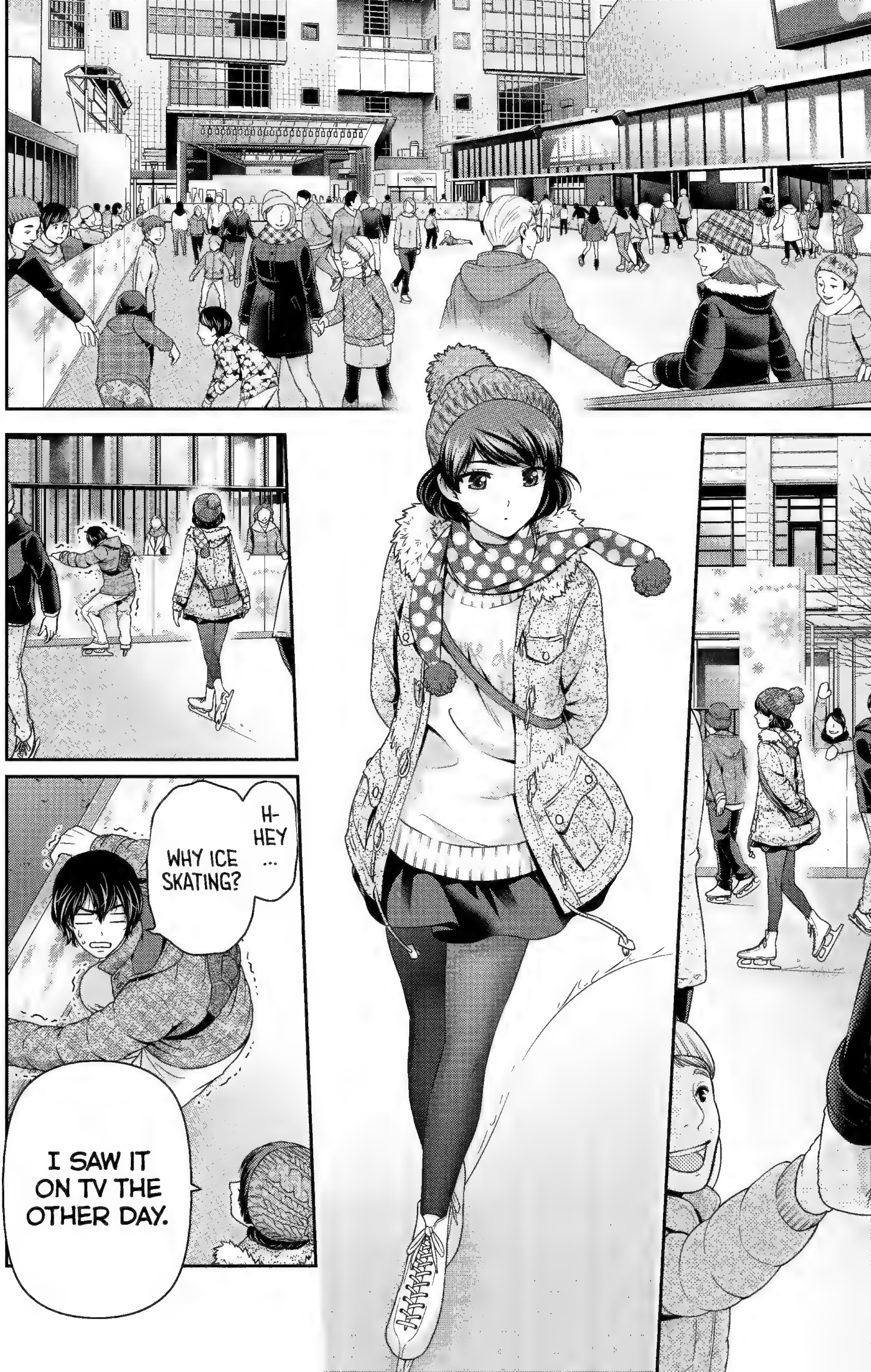

SNIFF
...
ARE YOU CRYING?
NO...
UM...
SORRY...

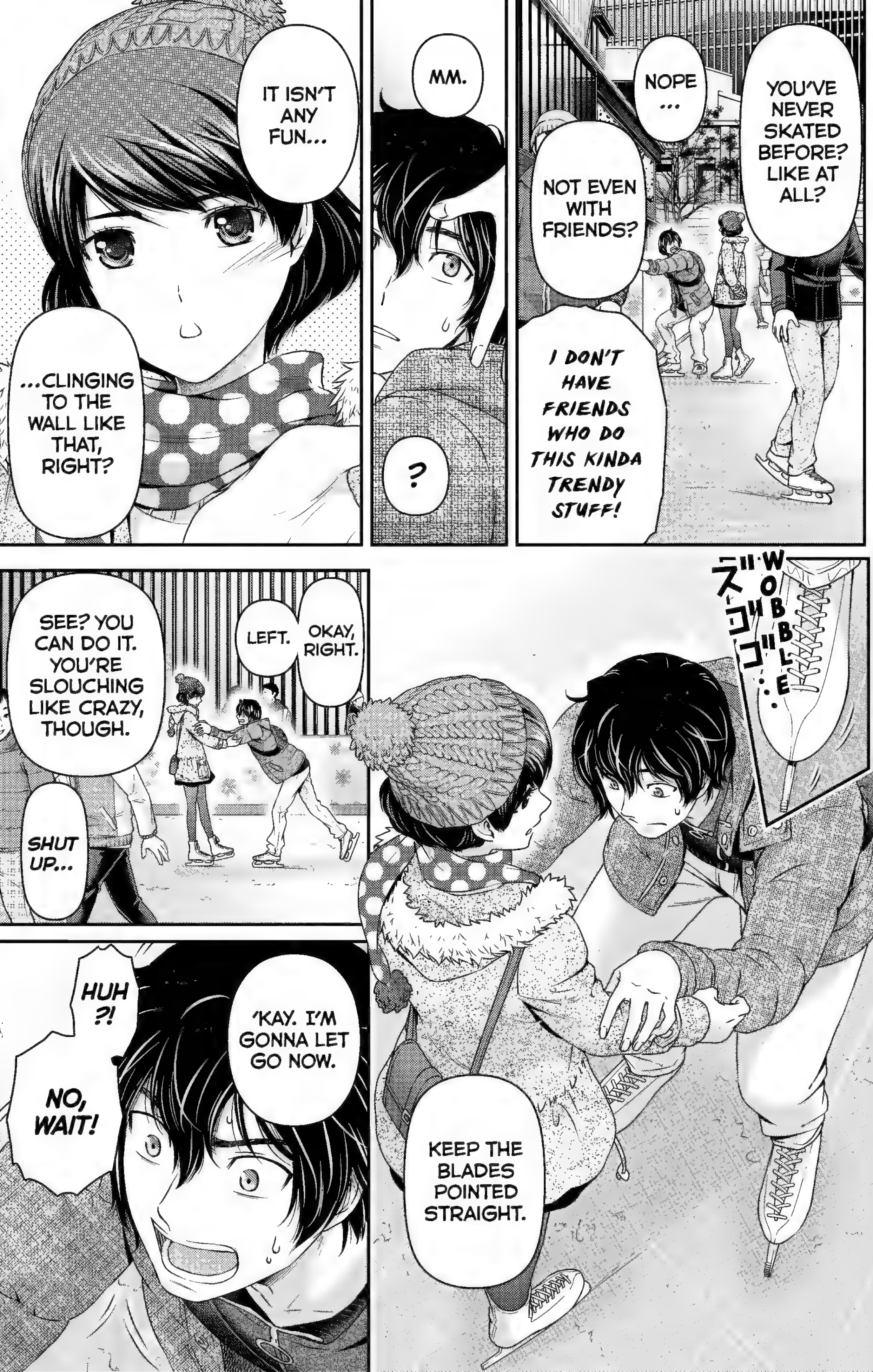

I NEVER IMAGINED YOU'D BE WEARING THAT AND JUMPED THE GUN...
...
...
WHY THE HAIRPIECE?
WIG.
OKAY WHY THE *WIG?*
I WENT SHOPPING WITH MOMO TODAY.
I GUESS SHE REMEMBERED THAT I MENTIONED GROWING MY HAIR OUT.
WE STOPPED BY HER PLACE ON THE WAY BACK AND SHE LENT IT TO ME.
SHE SAID IT CHANGED MY VIBE AND WOULD GIVE ME MORE OUTFIT OPTIONS.
ARE YOU GONNA GROW IT OUT?
I DUNNO.
...
OH, YEAH.
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.

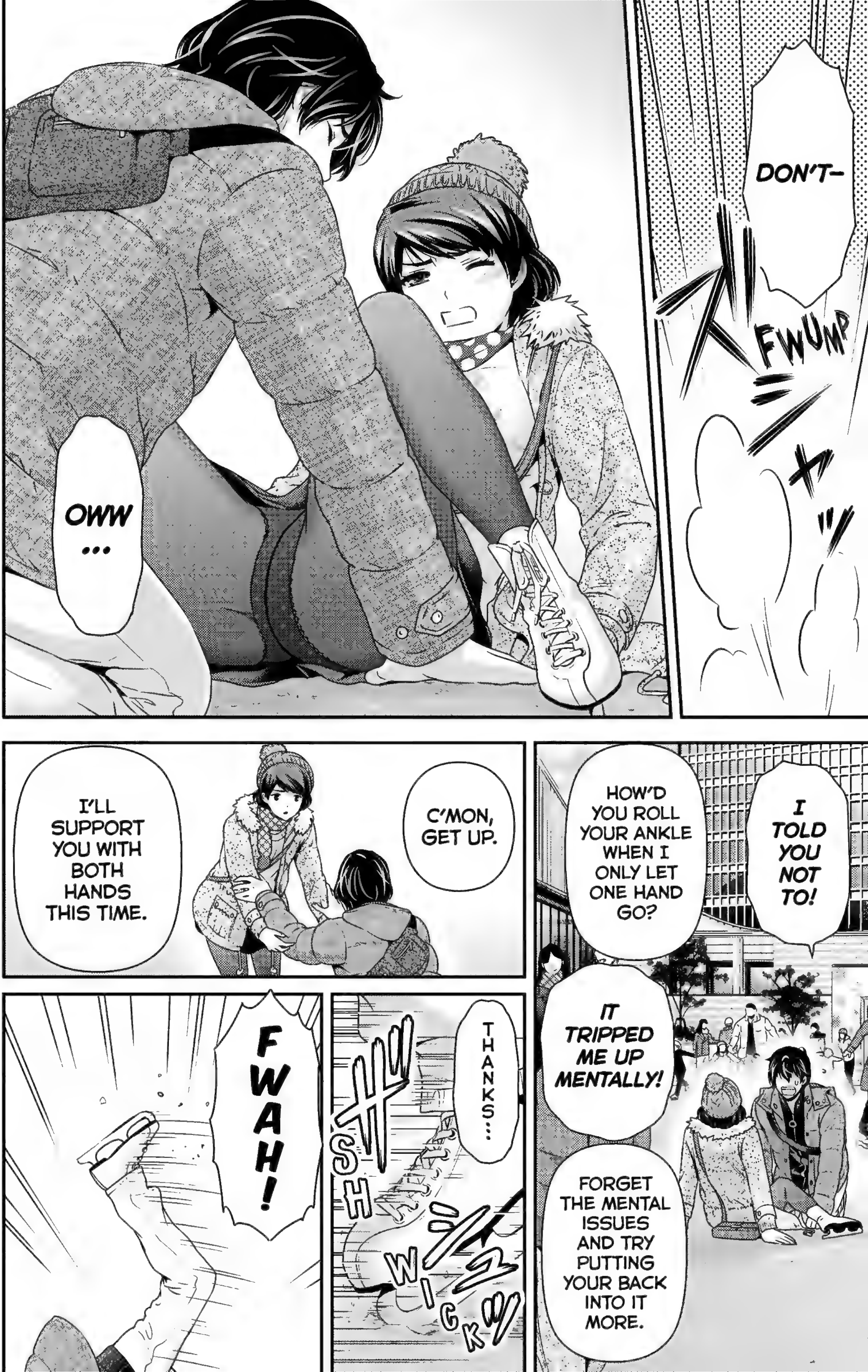

THE NOVEL I WROTE DURING WINTER BREAK...
...WON FIRST PRIZE IN THE SHINKOSHA LITERARY AWARD.
I'M NOT PULLING YOUR LEG.
BELIEVE ME, I CAN STILL BARELY BELIEVE IT MYSELF.
...
CONGRATS.
APPARENTLY, KIRIYA-SENSEI SUBMITTED IT WITHOUT TELLING ME.
I GOT PRIZE MONEY, TOO.
A WHOPPING 300,000 YEN*! ISN'T THAT NUTS?

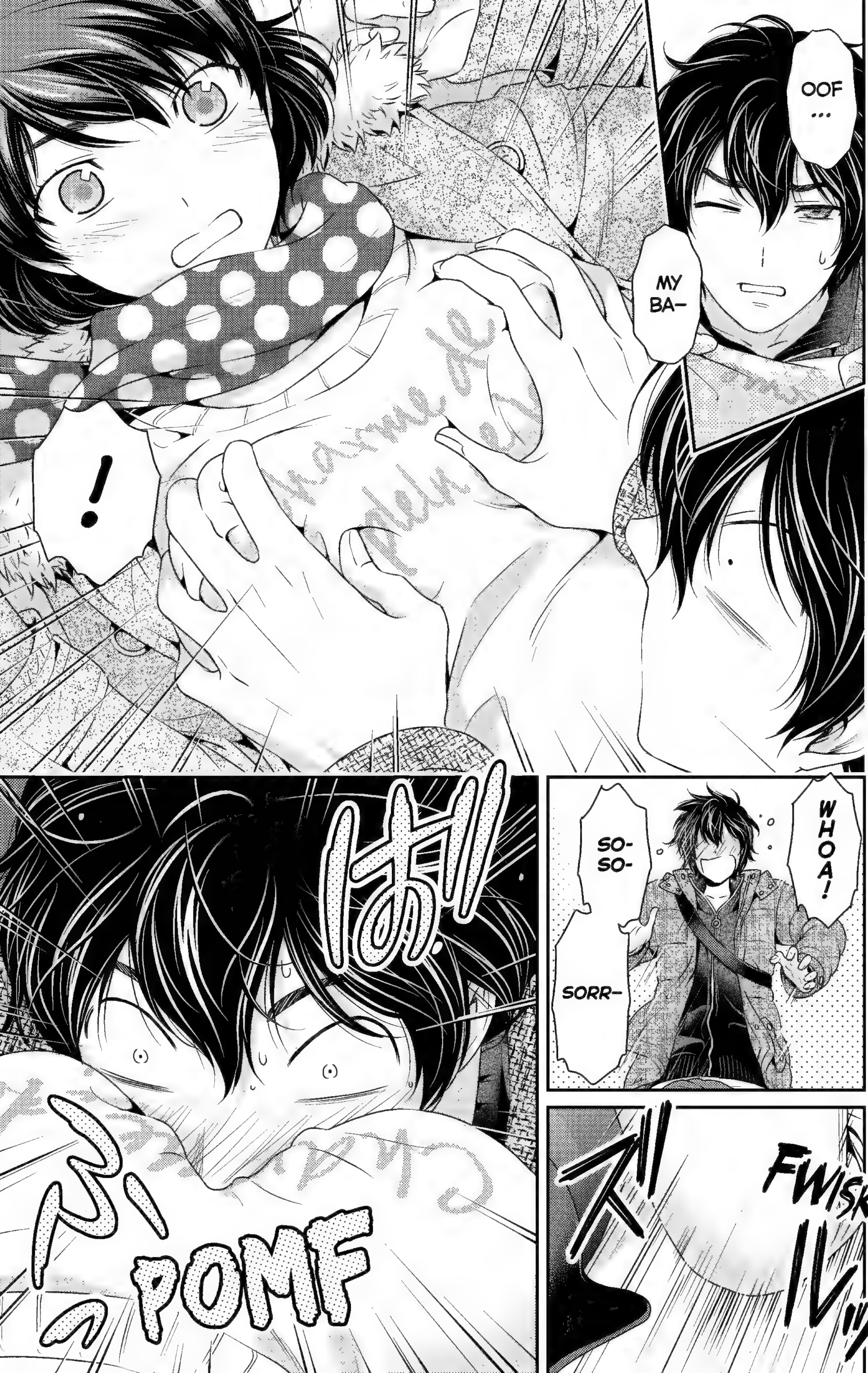
*APPROX. 3,000 USD.

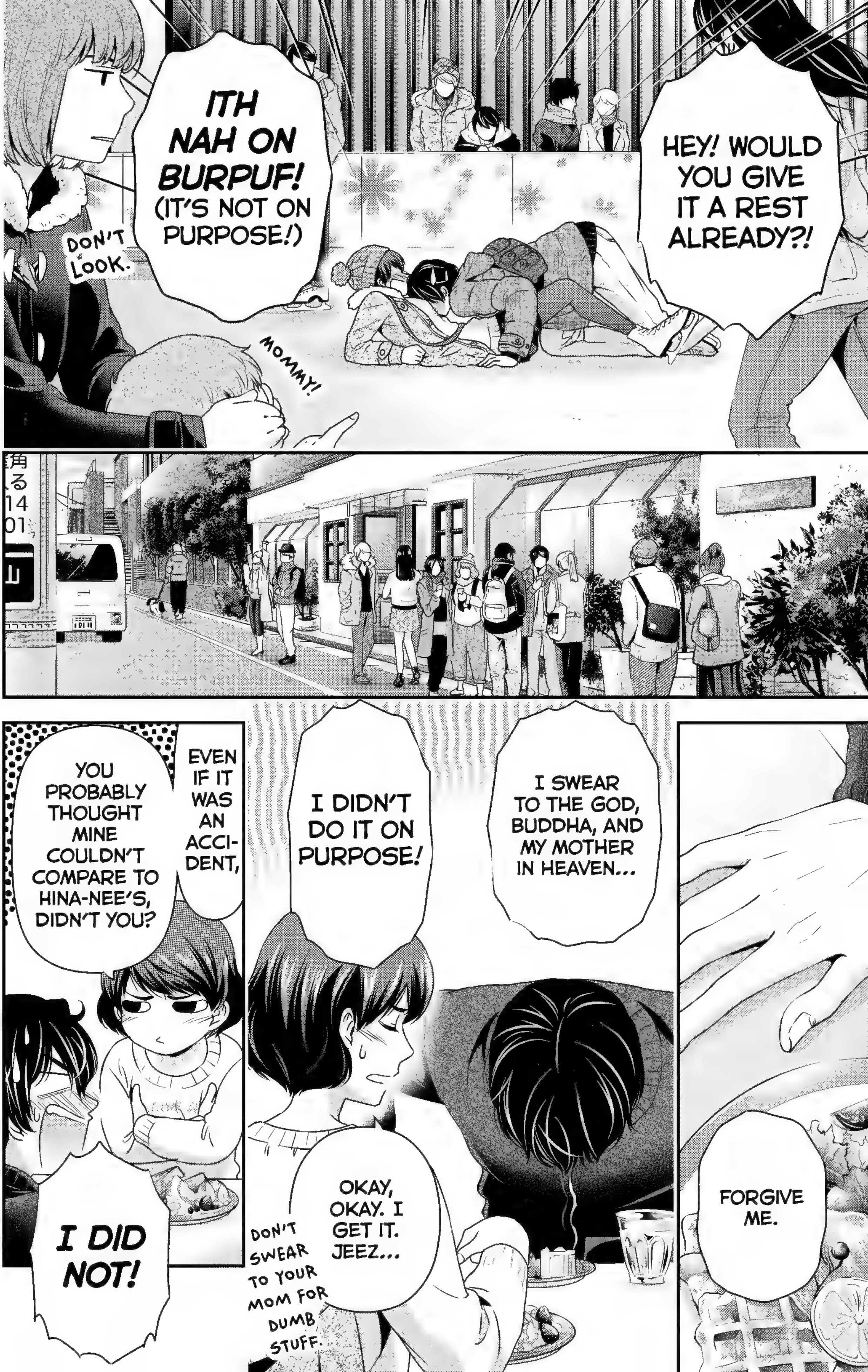

SO, LIKE,
I OWE YOU BIG TIME FOR TAKING CARE OF ME WHILE I WAS WRITING IT,
SO I WANT TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION.
ANY IDEAS?
IT CAN BE SOMETHING FAIRLY EXPENSIVE IF YOU WANT.
...
THEN ...
...SINCE TOMORROW'S SUNDAY,
DO WHATEVER I SAY FOR THE WHOLE DAY.

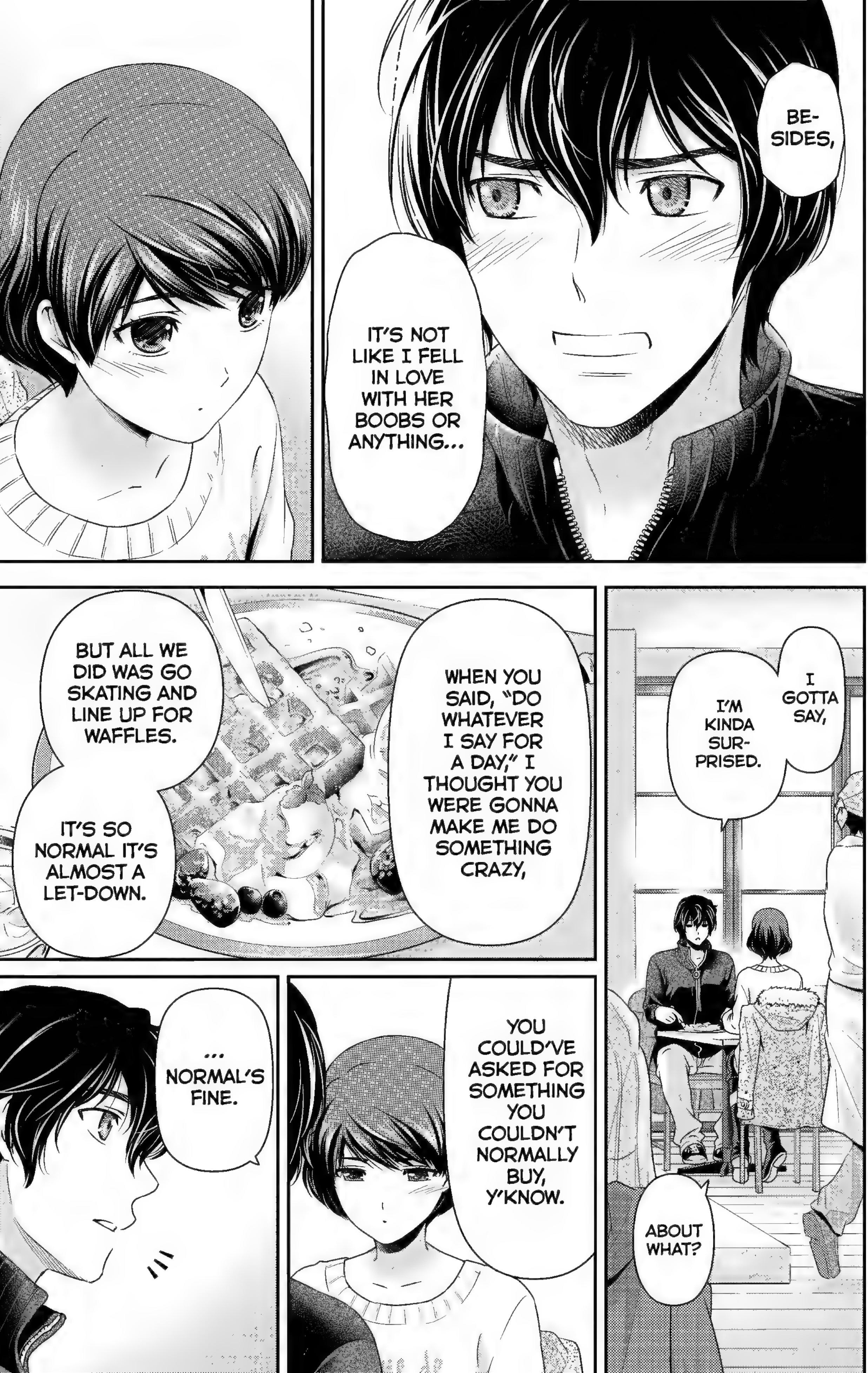

H-HEY... WHY ICE SKATING?
I SAW IT ON TV THE OTHER DAY.

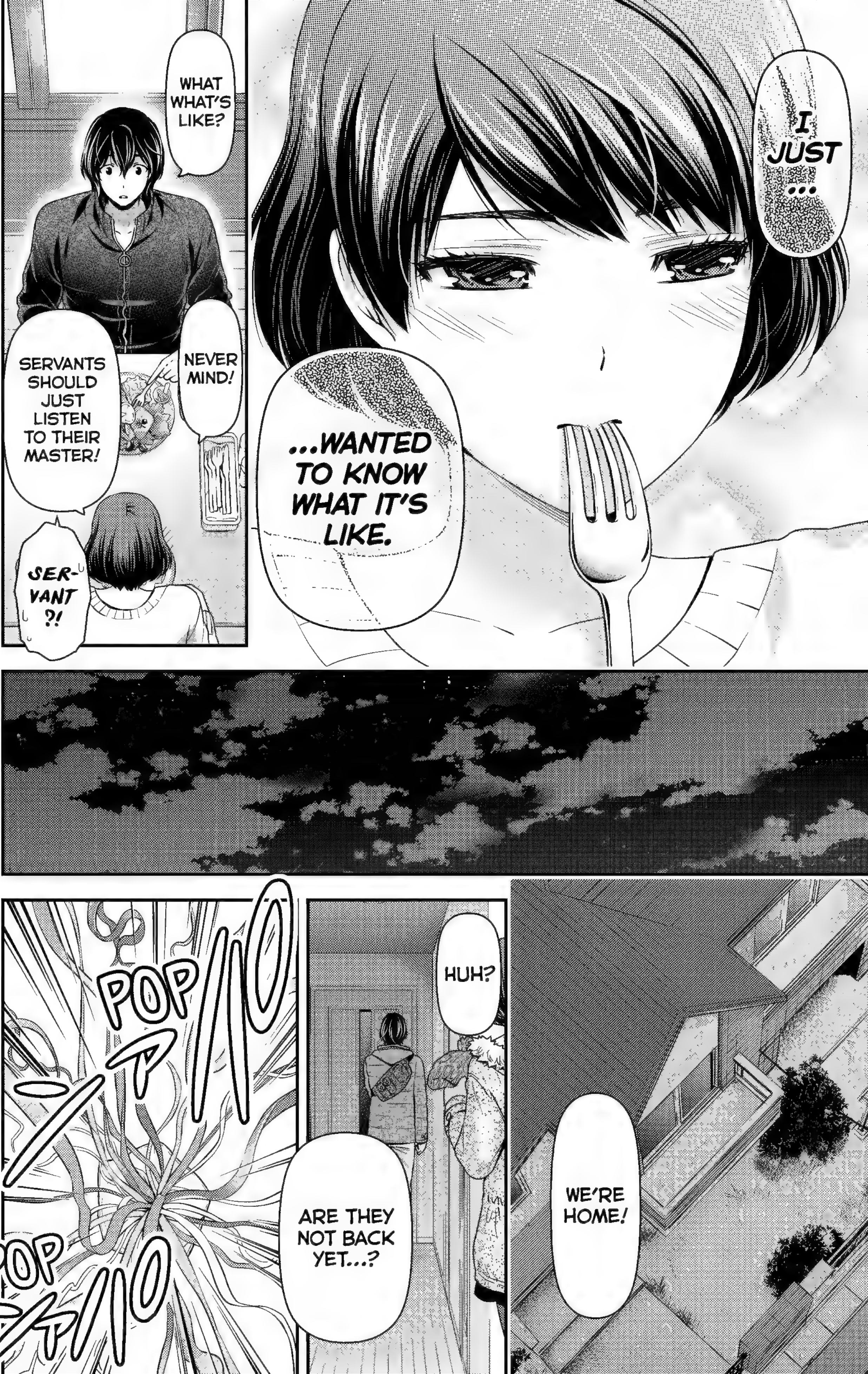

YOU'VE NEVER SKATED BEFORE? LIKE AT ALL?
NOPE...
NOT EVEN WITH FRIENDS?
I DON'T HAVE FRIENDS WHO DO THIS KINDA TRENDY STUFF!
MM.
?
IT ISN'T ANY FUN...
...CLINGING TO THE WALL LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
ズリ ゴゴ WOBBLE...
KEEP THE BLADES POINTED STRAIGHT.
OKAY, RIGHT.
LEFT.
SEE? YOU CAN DO IT. YOU'RE SLOUCHING LIKE CRAZY, THOUGH.
SHUT UP...
'KAY. I'M GONNA LET GO NOW.
HUH?!
NO, WAIT!

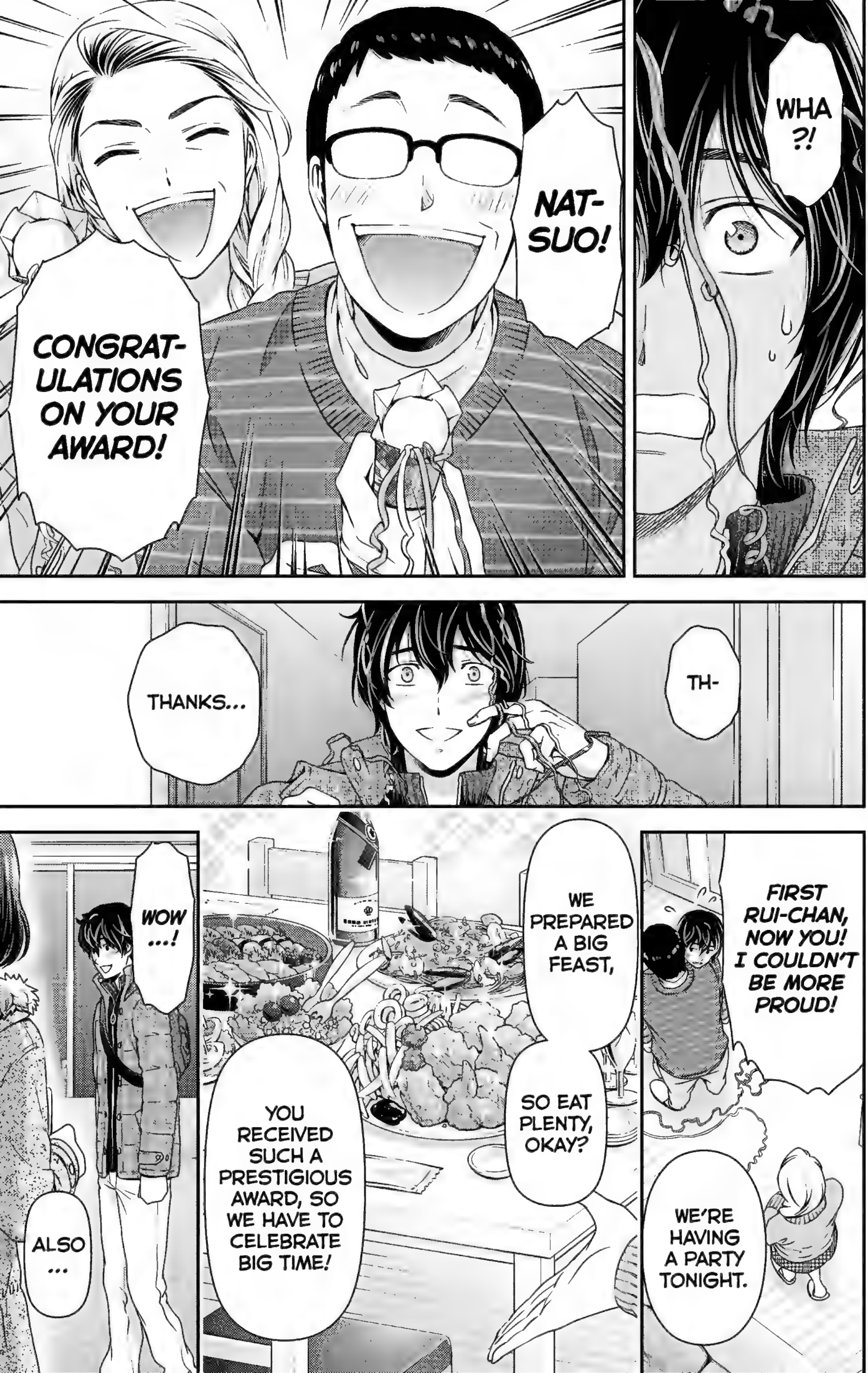

DON'T-
FWUMP
OWW...
I TOLD YOU NOT TO!
HOW'D YOU ROLL YOUR ANKLE WHEN I ONLY LET ONE HAND GO?
IT TRIPPED ME UP MENTALLY!
FORGET THE MENTAL ISSUES AND TRY PUTTING YOUR BACK INTO IT MORE.
C'MON, GET UP.
I'LL SUPPORT YOU WITH BOTH HANDS THIS TIME.
THANKS...
SHH
SWICK
FWAH!

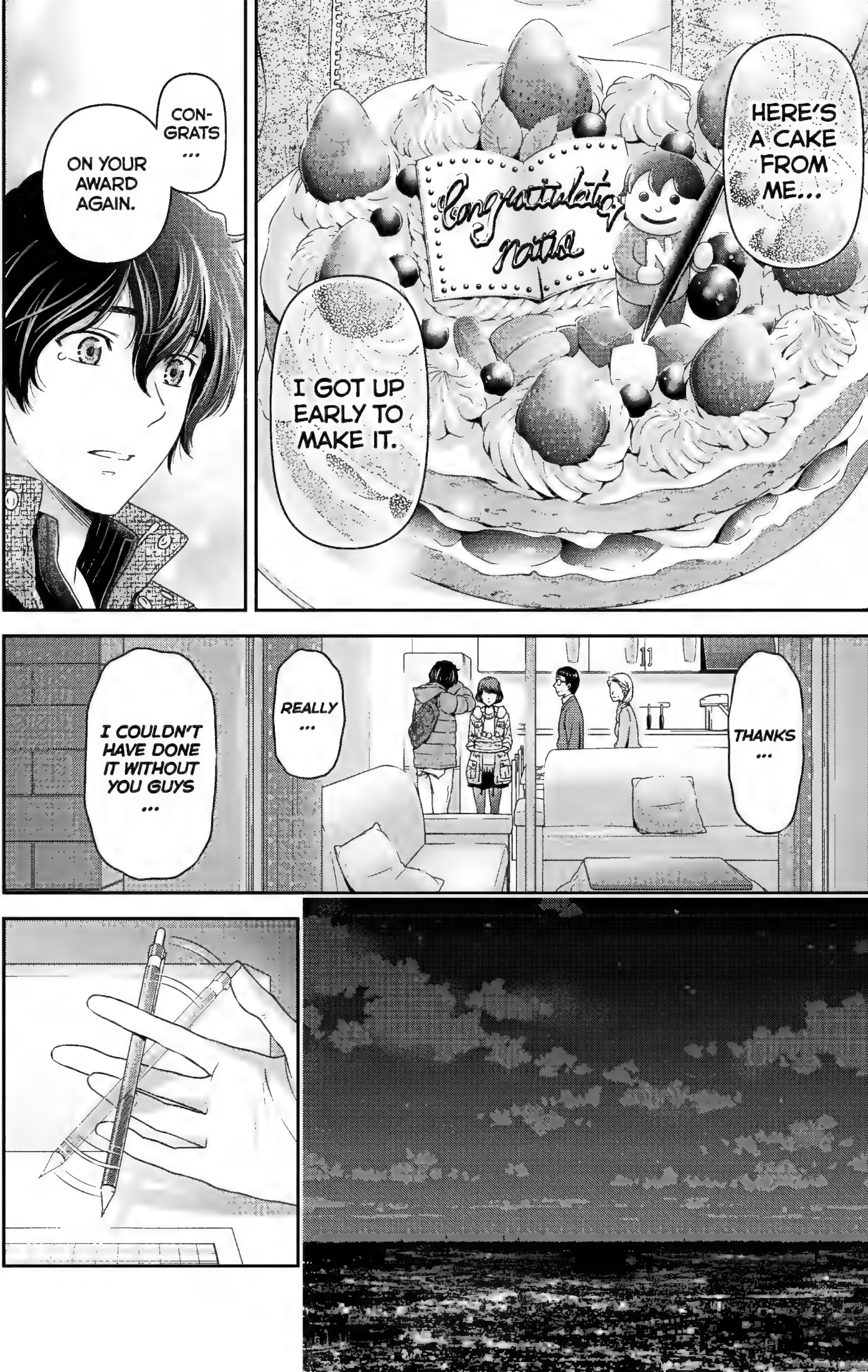

OOF ...
MY BA–
!
WHOA!
SO- SO- SORR–
はっ!!
ふ
POMF
FWISK
ズル!!!

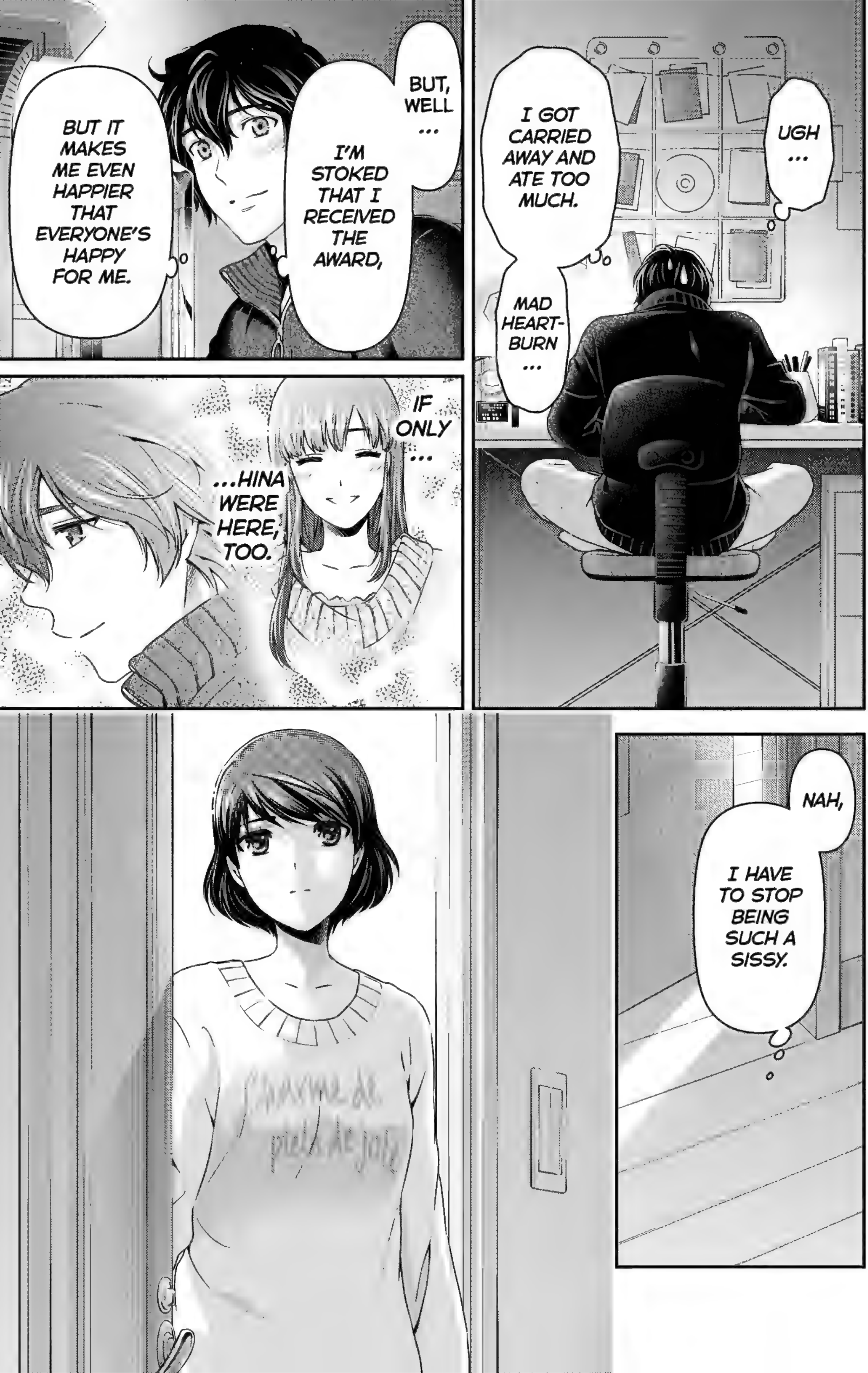

HEY! WOULD YOU GIVE IT A REST ALREADY?!
ITH NAH ON BURPUF! (IT'S NOT ON PURPOSE!)
DON'T LOOK.
MOMMY!
FORGIVE ME.
I SWEAR TO THE GOD, BUDDHA, AND MY MOTHER IN HEAVEN...
I DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE!
OKAY, OKAY. I GET IT. JEEZ...
DON'T SWEAR TO YOUR MOM FOR DUMB STUFF.
EVEN IF IT WAS AN ACCIDENT,
YOU PROBABLY THOUGHT MINE COULDN'T COMPARE TO HINA-NEE'S, DIDN'T YOU?
I DID NOT!

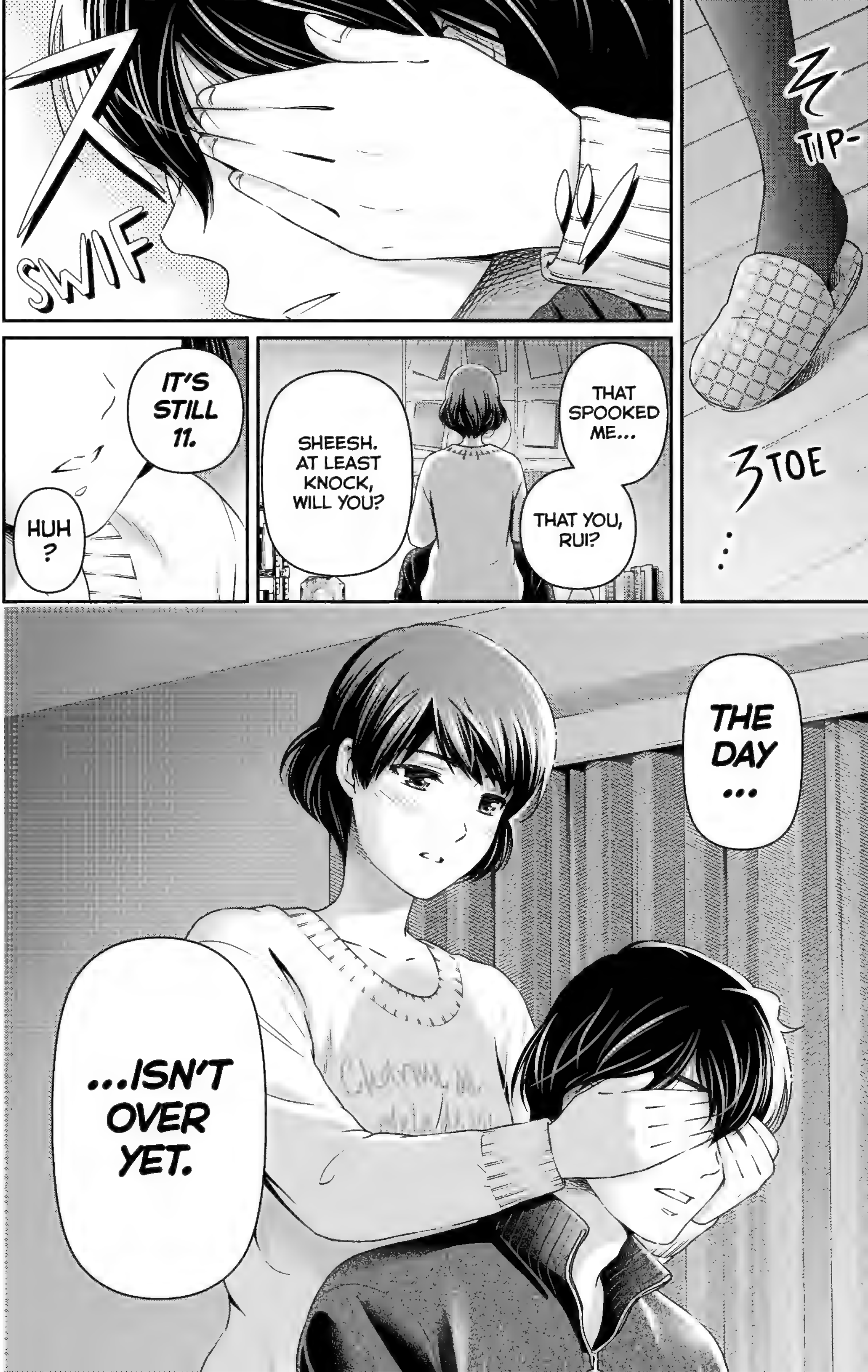

BESIDES,
IT'S NOT LIKE I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER BOOBS OR ANYTHING...
I GOTTA SAY,
I'M KINDA SURPRISED.
ABOUT WHAT?
WHEN YOU SAID, "DO WHATEVER I SAY FOR A DAY," I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA MAKE ME DO SOMETHING CRAZY,
BUT ALL WE DID WAS GO SKATING AND LINE UP FOR WAFFLES.
IT'S SO NORMAL IT'S ALMOST A LET-DOWN.
YOU COULD'VE ASKED FOR SOMETHING YOU COULDN'T NORMALLY BUY, Y'KNOW.
... NORMAL'S FINE.


I JUST...
...WANTED TO KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE.
WHAT WHAT'S LIKE?
NEVER MIND!
SERVANTS SHOULD JUST LISTEN TO THEIR MASTER!
SER-VANT?!
WE'RE HOME!
HUH?
ARE THEY NOT BACK YET...?
POP
POP

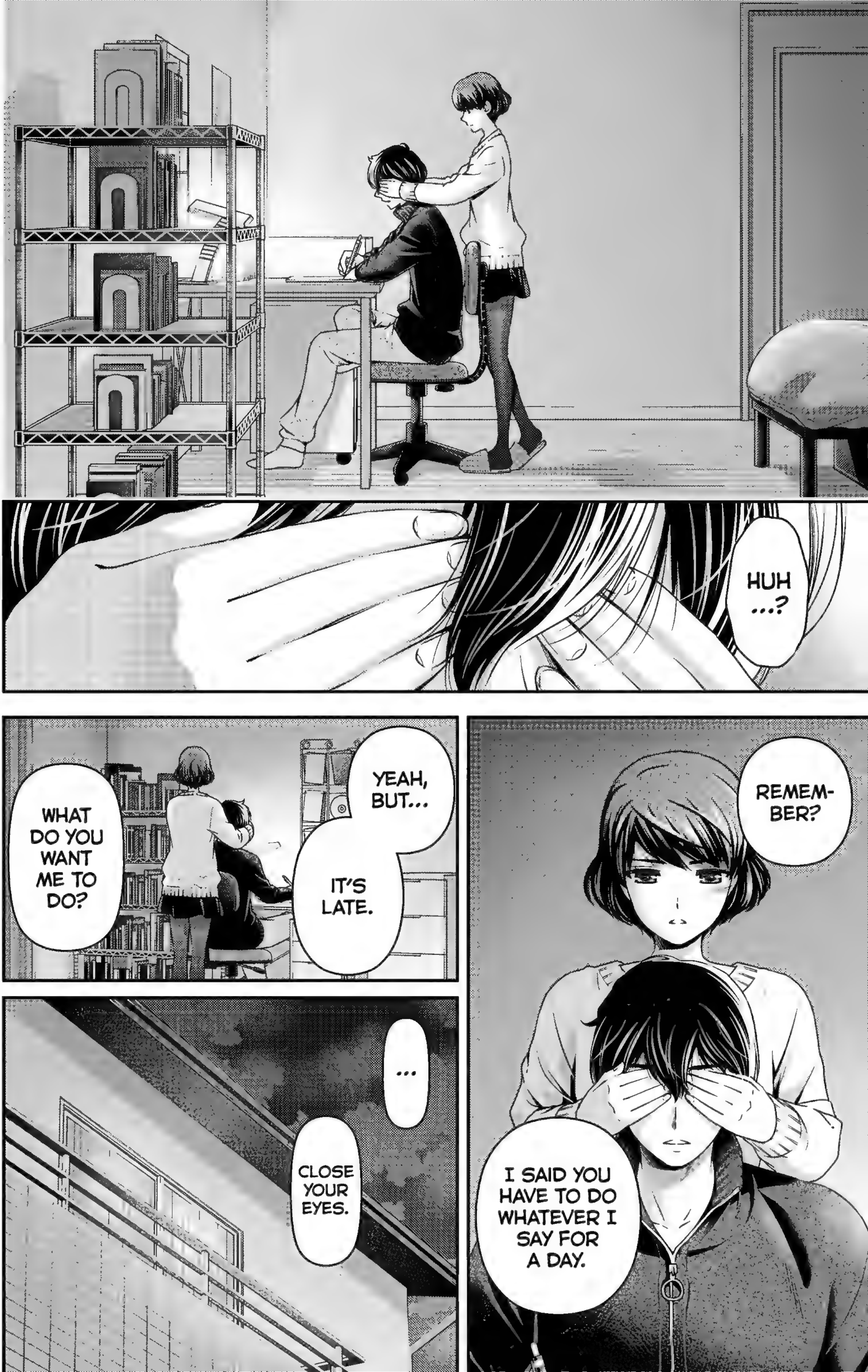

WHA?!
NAT-SUO!
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR AWARD!
TH-
THANKS...
FIRST RUI-CHAN, NOW YOU! I COULDN'T BE MORE PROUD!
WE'RE HAVING A PARTY TONIGHT.
WE PREPARED A BIG FEAST,
SO EAT PLENTY, OKAY?
YOU RECEIVED SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS AWARD, SO WE HAVE TO CELEBRATE BIG TIME!
WOW...!
ALSO...

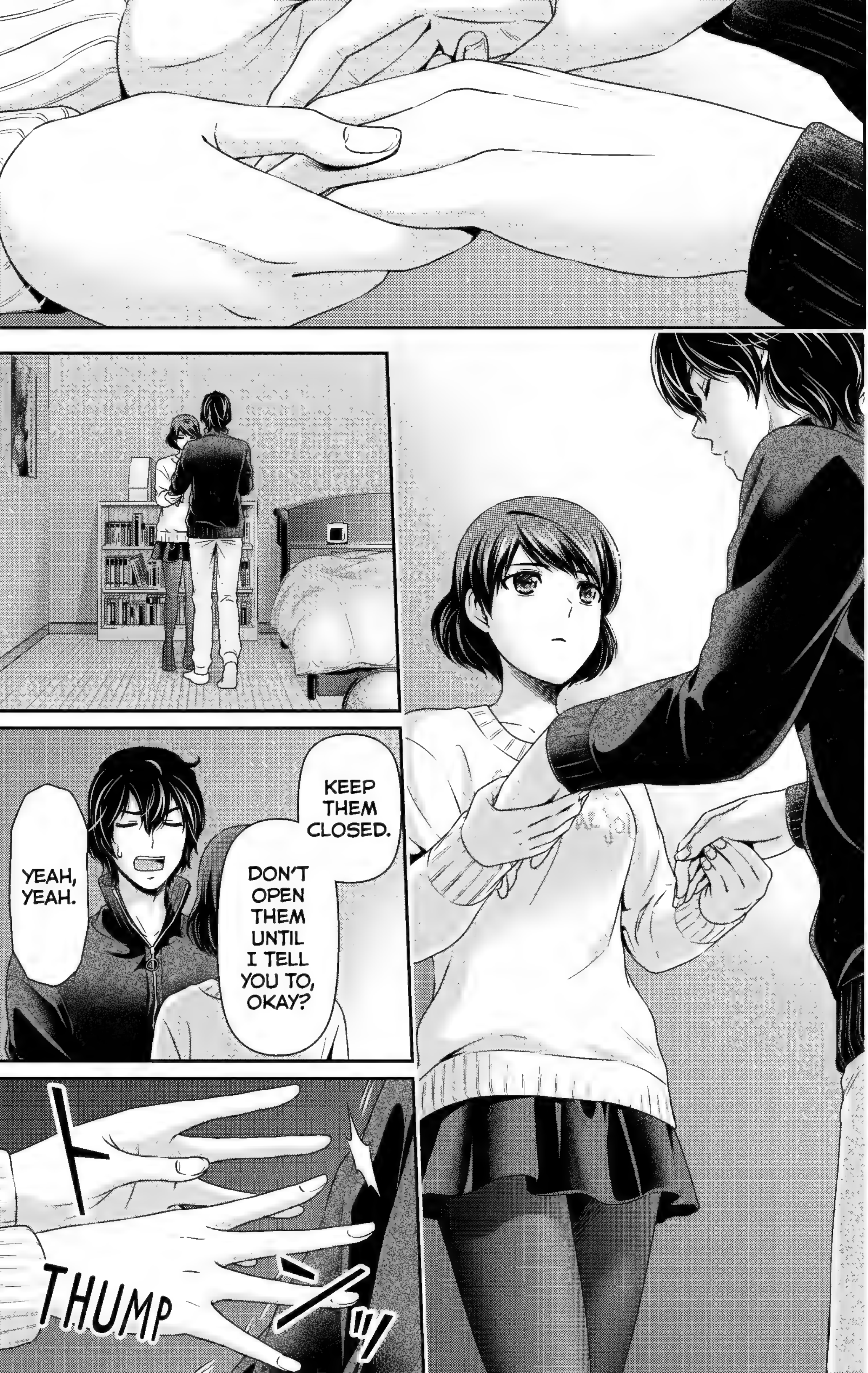

HERE'S A CAKE FROM ME...
I GOT UP EARLY TO MAKE IT.
Congratulatio
natsu
CONGRATS... ON YOUR AWARD AGAIN.
THANKS...
REALLY...
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU GUYS...

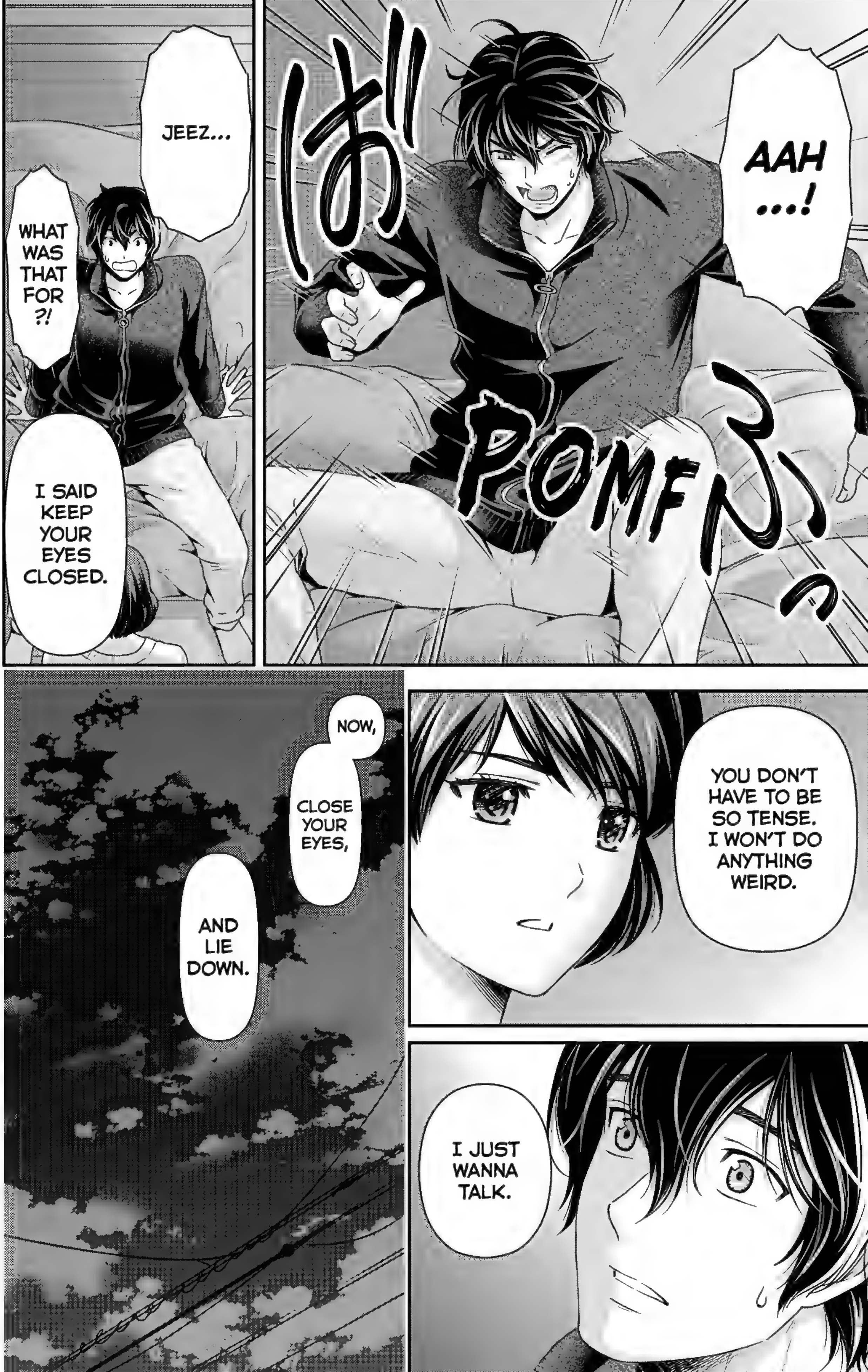

UGH ...
I GOT CARRIED AWAY AND ATE TOO MUCH.
MAD HEARTBURN ...
BUT, WELL ...
I'M STOKED THAT I RECEIVED THE AWARD,
BUT IT MAKES ME EVEN HAPPIER THAT EVERYONE'S HAPPY FOR ME.
IF ONLY ...
...HINA WERE HERE, TOO.
NAH,
I HAVE TO STOP BEING SUCH A SISSY.

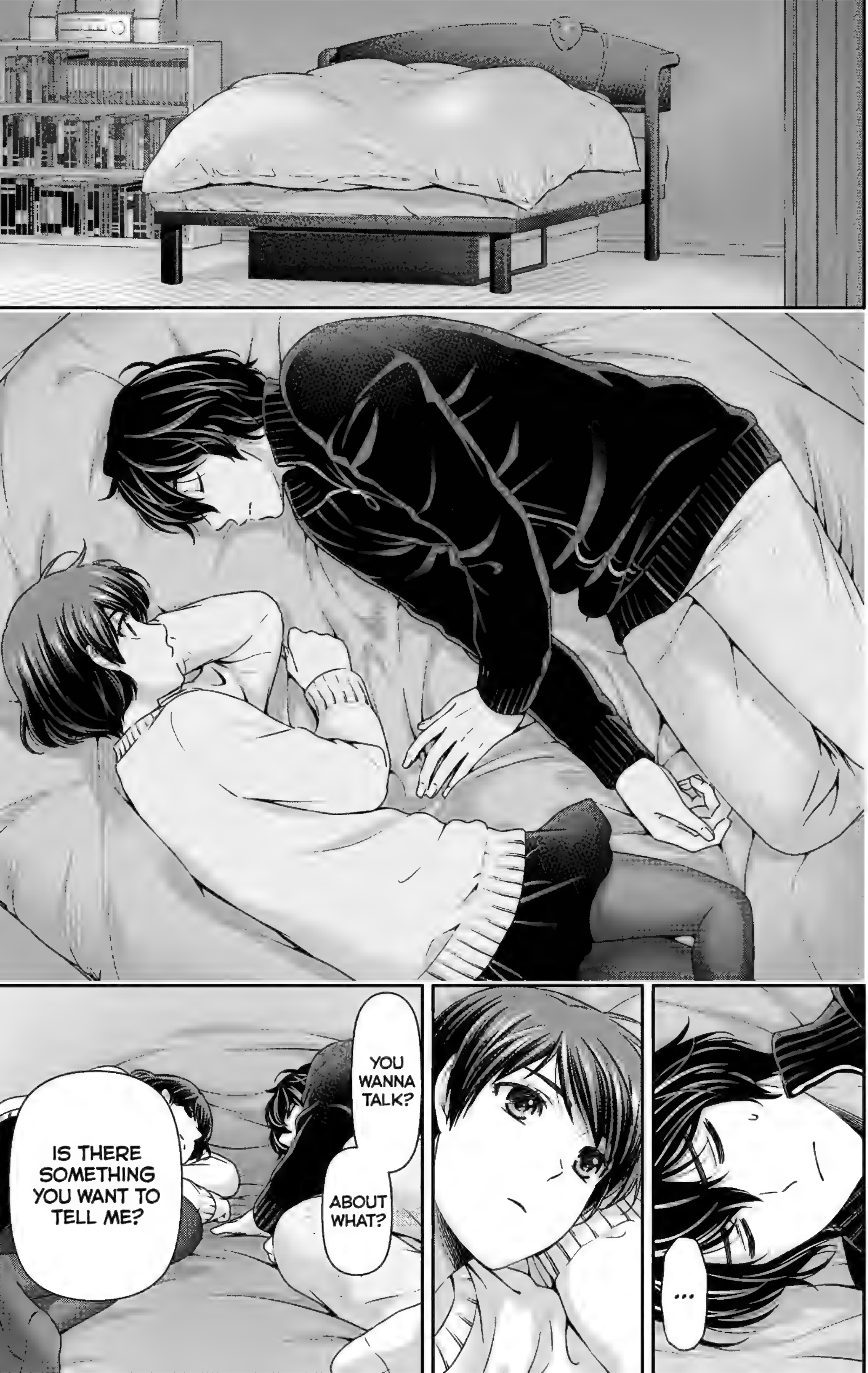

TIP-
TOE
...
SWIF
THAT SPOOKED ME...
THAT YOU, RUI?
SHEESH. AT LEAST KNOCK, WILL YOU?
IT'S STILL 11.
HUH?
THE DAY...
...ISN'T OVER YET.

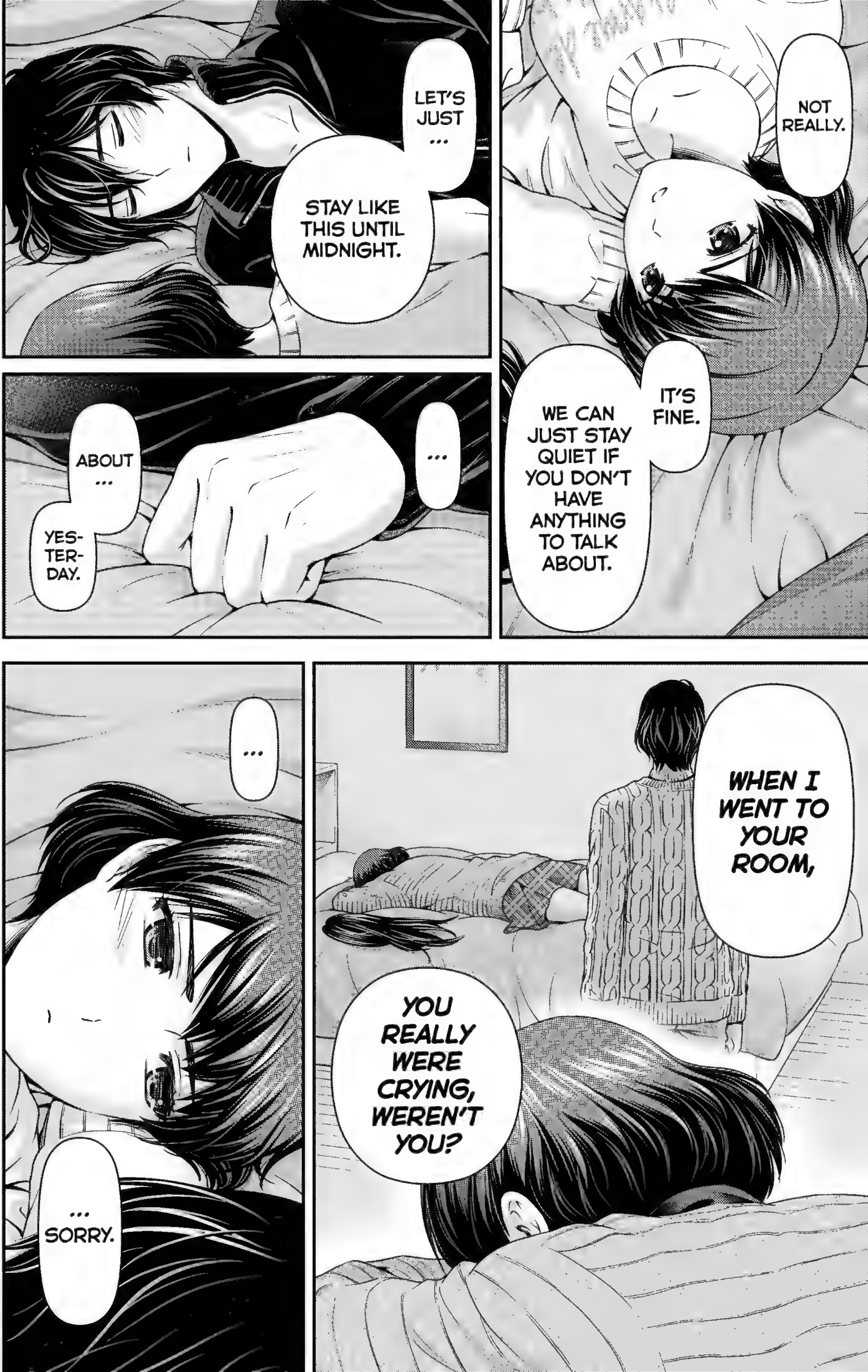
CHAPTER 72: CINDERELLA IN THE SHEETS

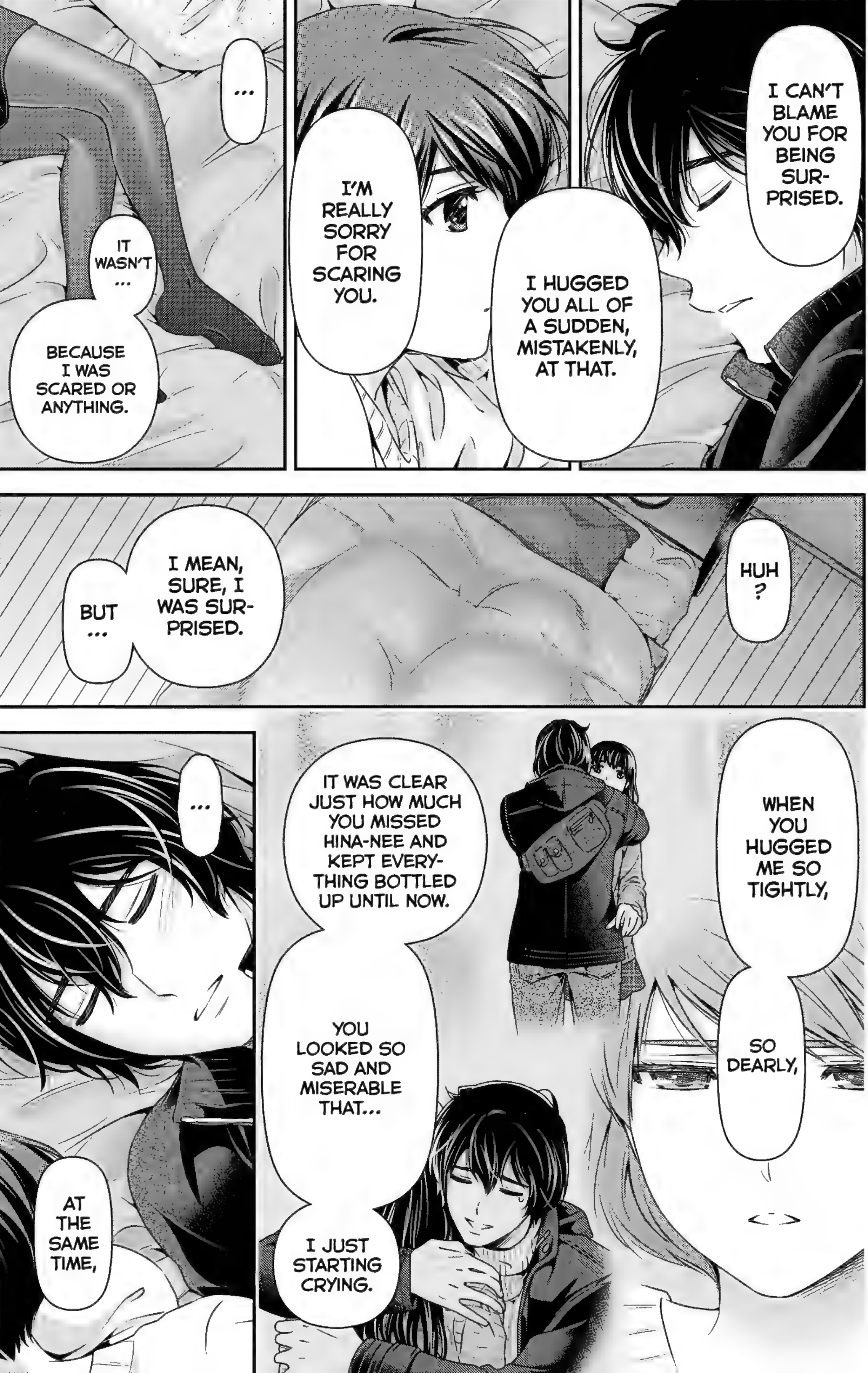

HUH ...?
REMEMBER?
I SAID YOU HAVE TO DO WHATEVER I SAY FOR A DAY.
YEAH, BUT... IT'S LATE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
...
CLOSE YOUR EYES.

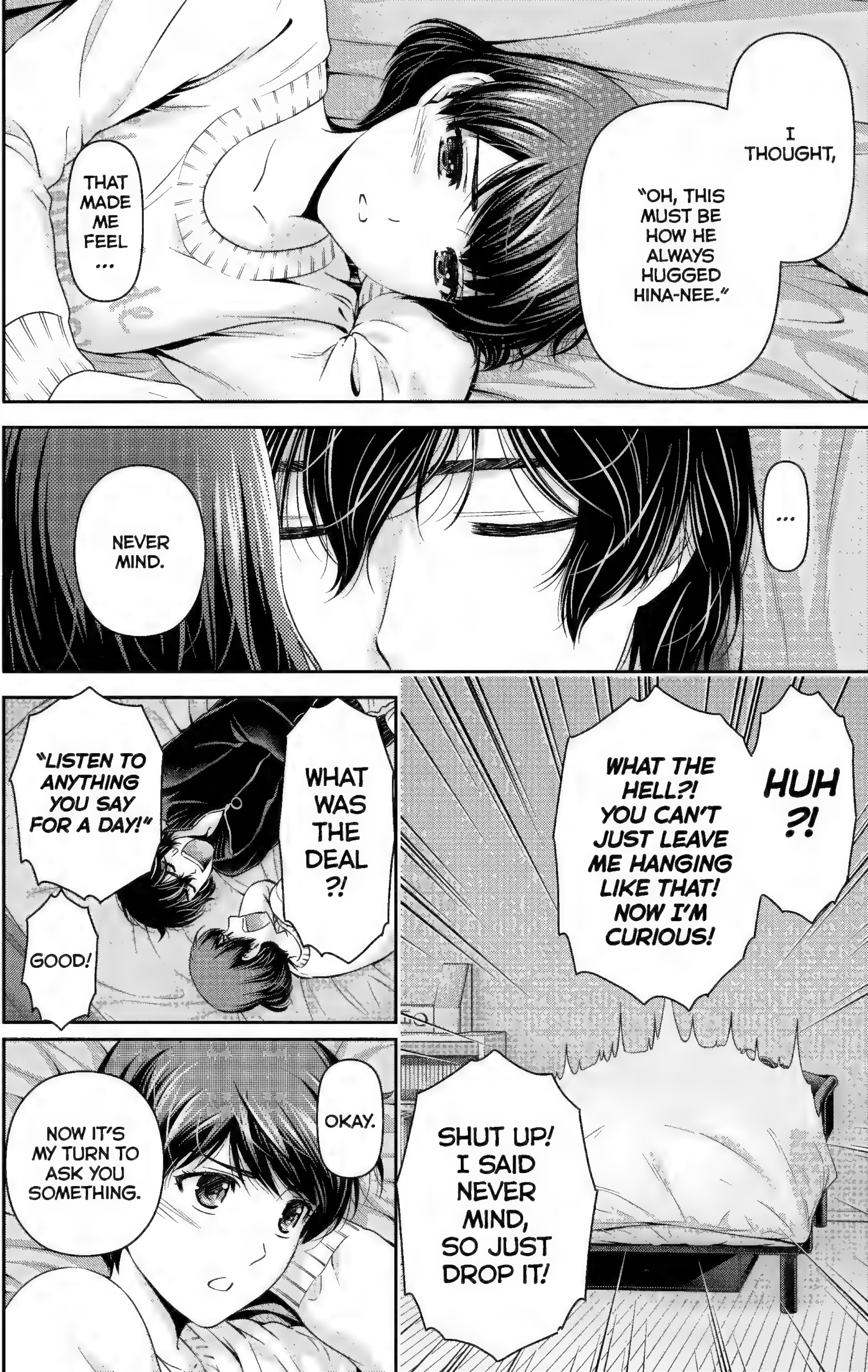

KEEP THEM CLOSED.
DON'T OPEN THEM UNTIL I TELL YOU TO, OKAY?
YEAH, YEAH.
THUMP

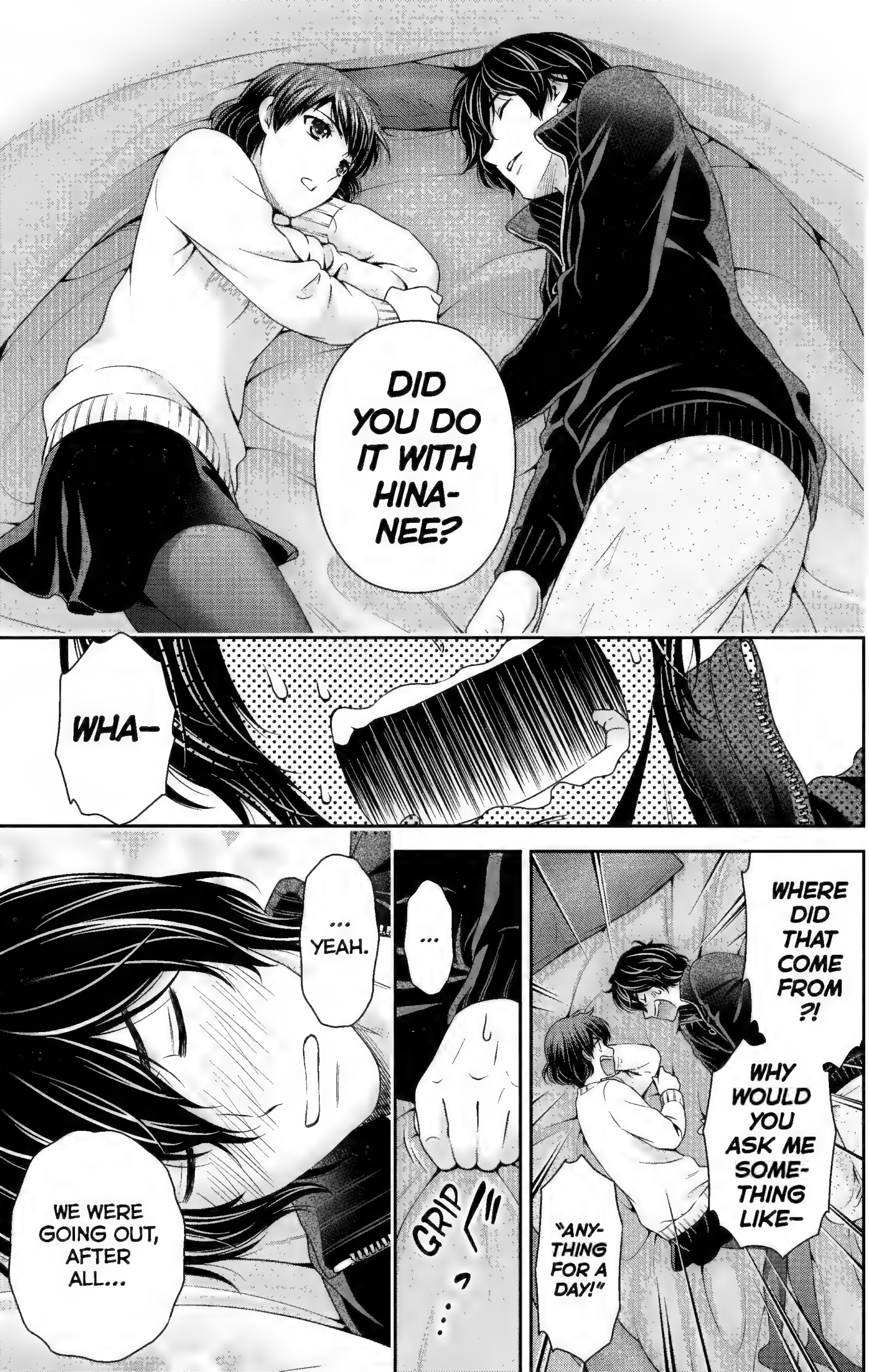

AAH ...!
POMF
JEEZ...
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
I SAID KEEP YOUR EYES CLOSED.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO TENSE. I WON'T DO ANYTHING WEIRD.
I JUST WANNA TALK.
NOW,
CLOSE YOUR EYES,
AND LIE DOWN.

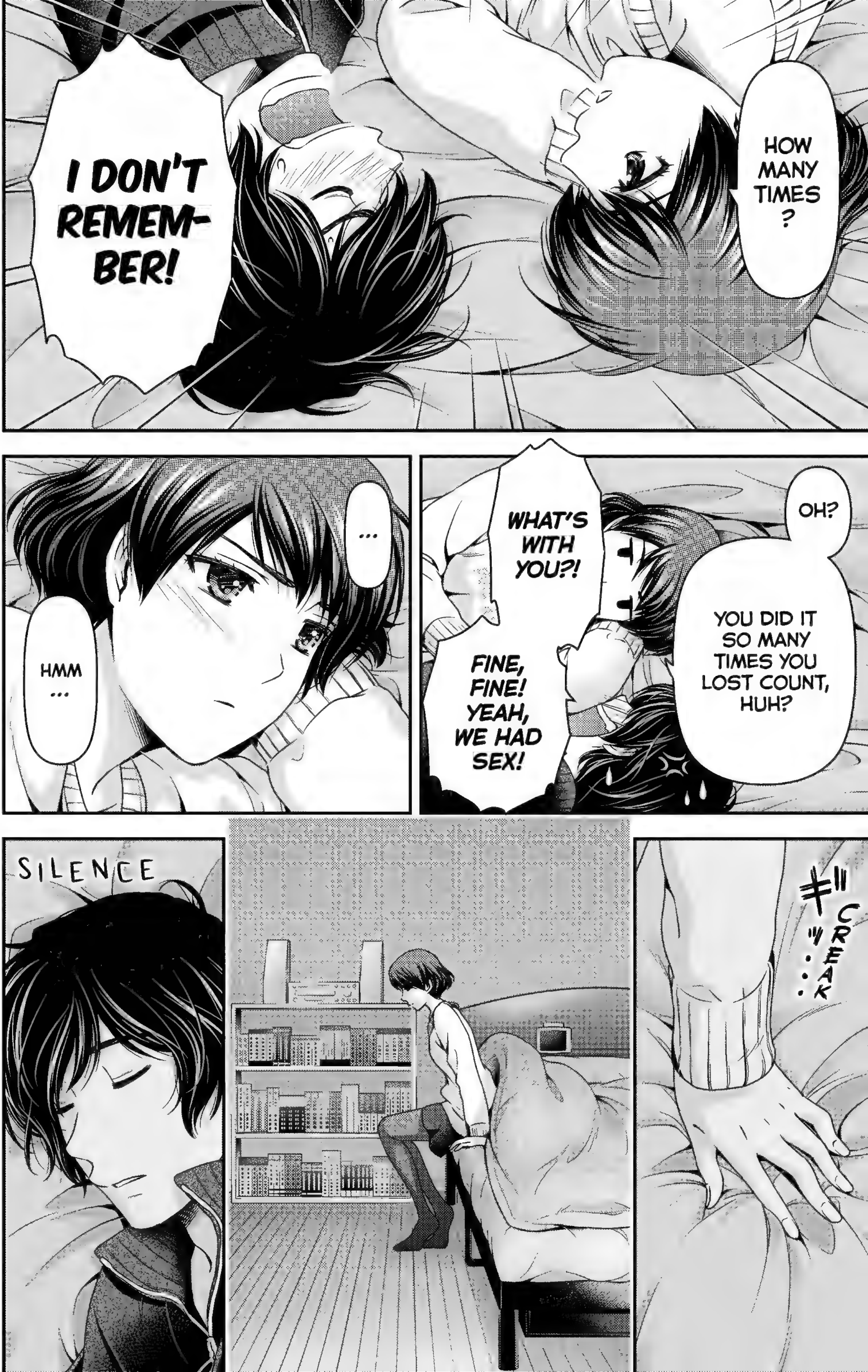

YOU WANNA TALK?
ABOUT WHAT?
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TELL ME?
...

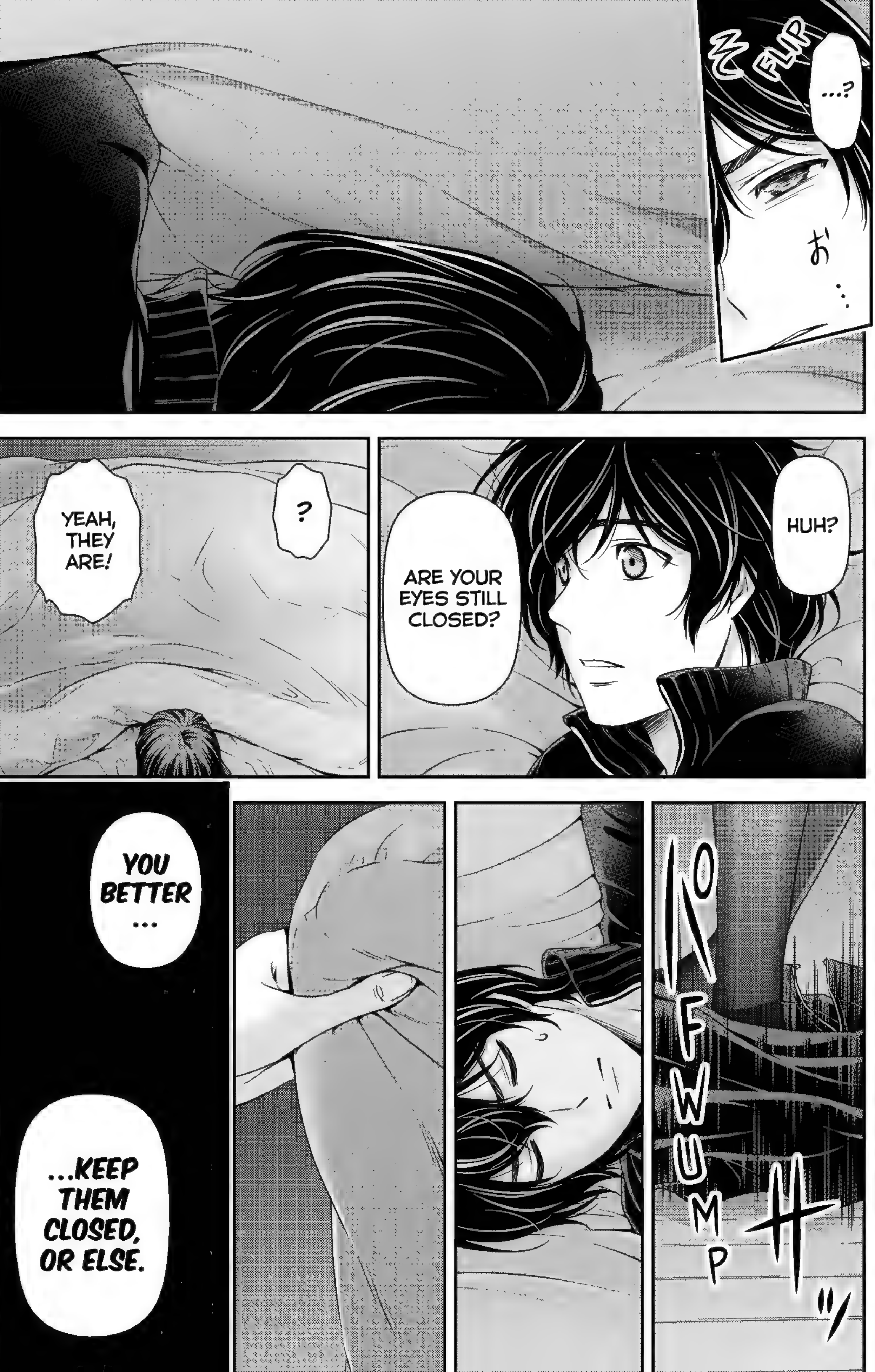

NOT REALLY.
IT'S FINE.
WE CAN JUST STAY QUIET IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO TALK ABOUT.
LET'S JUST ...
STAY LIKE THIS UNTIL MIDNIGHT.
...
ABOUT ...
YESTERDAY.
WHEN I WENT TO YOUR ROOM,
YOU REALLY WERE CRYING, WEREN'T YOU?
...
... SORRY.

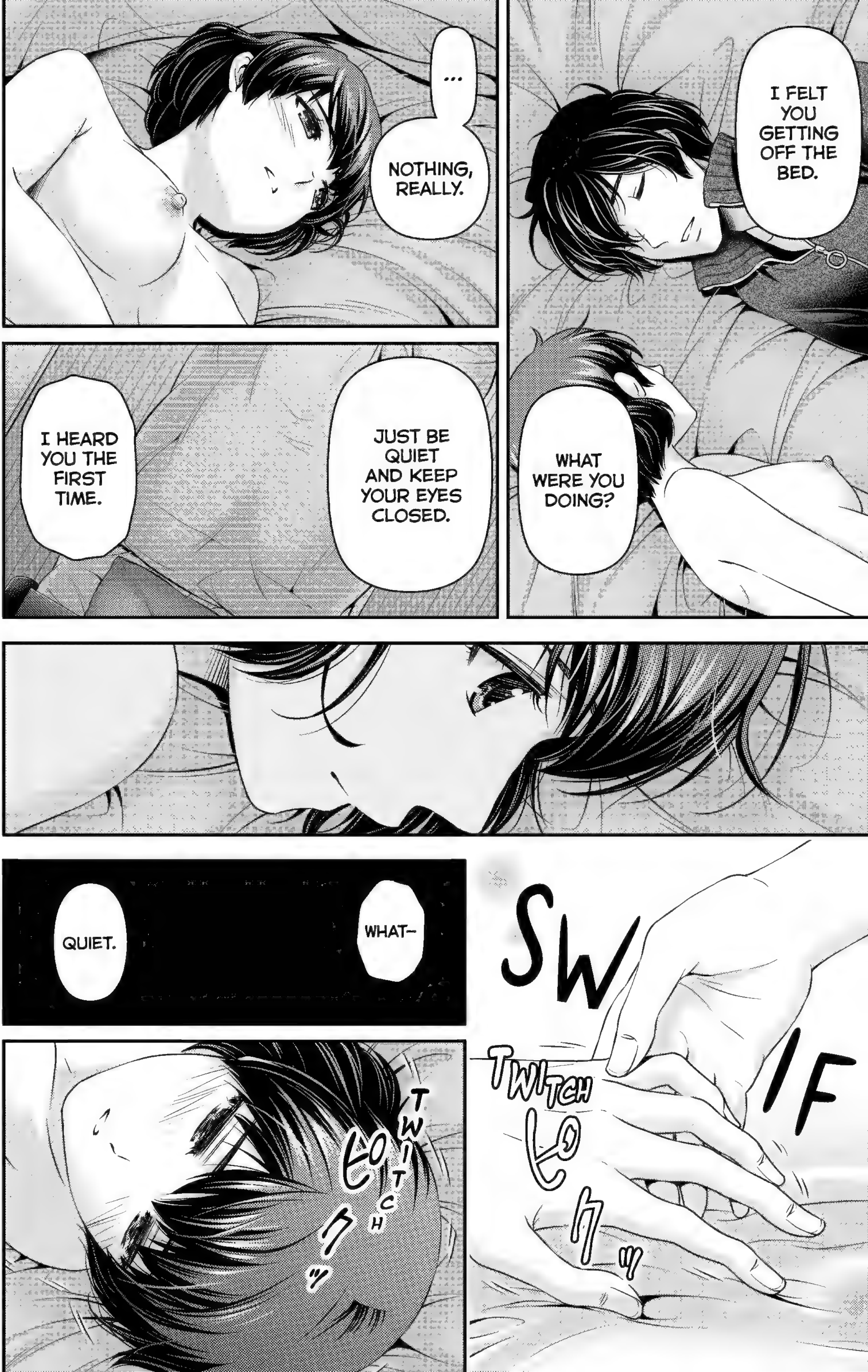

I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR BEING SURPRISED.
I HUGGED YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN, MISTAKENLY, AT THAT.
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR SCARING YOU.
...
IT WASN'T ...
BECAUSE I WAS SCARED OR ANYTHING.
HUH?
I MEAN, SURE, I WAS SURPRISED.
BUT ...
WHEN YOU HUGGED ME SO TIGHTLY,
SO DEARLY,
IT WAS CLEAR JUST HOW MUCH YOU MISSED HINA-NEE AND KEPT EVERYTHING BOTTLED UP UNTIL NOW.
YOU LOOKED SO SAD AND MISERABLE THAT...
I JUST STARTING CRYING.
...
AT THE SAME TIME,

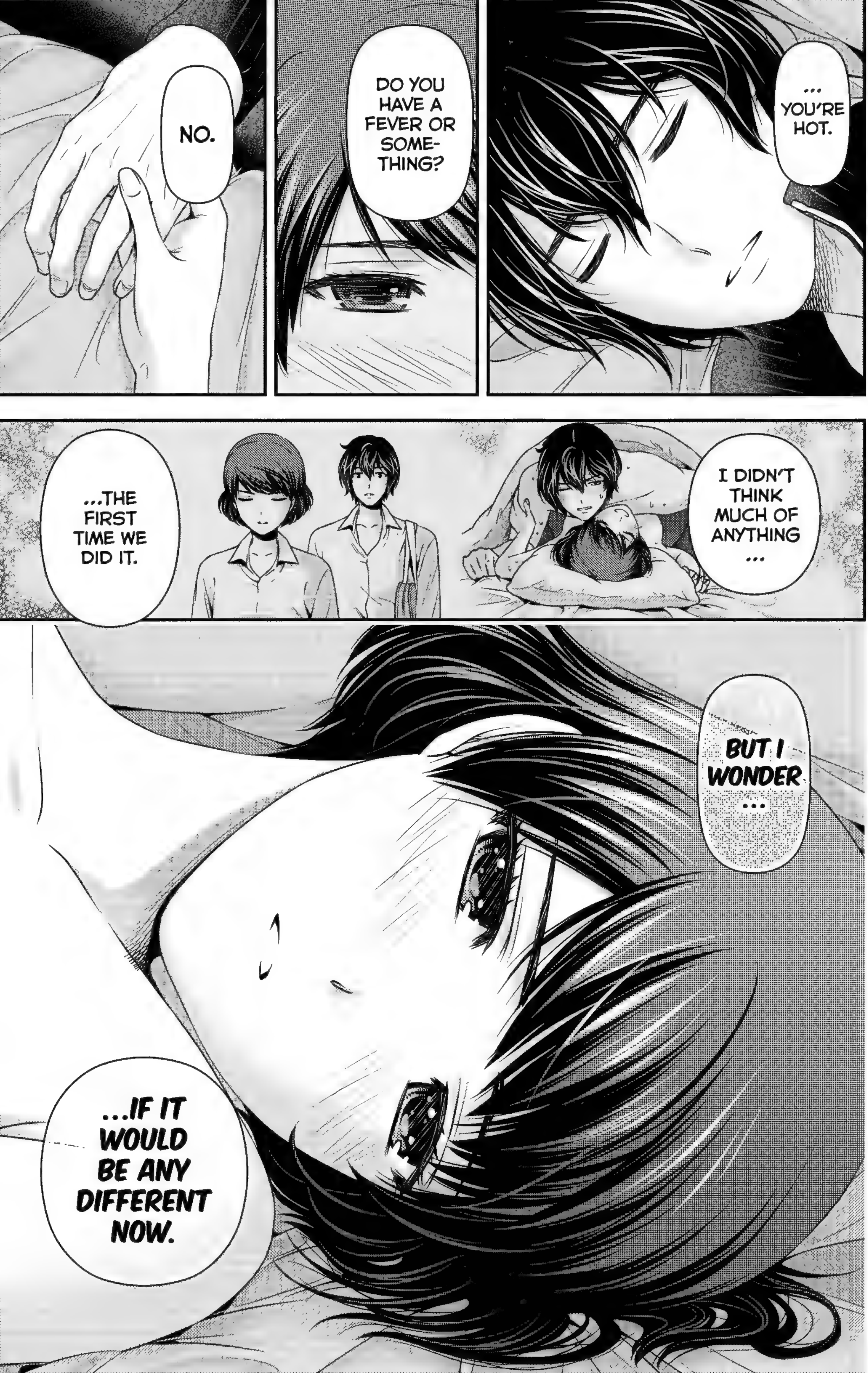

I THOUGHT,
"OH, THIS MUST BE HOW HE ALWAYS HUGGED HINA-NEE."
THAT MADE ME FEEL ...
...
NEVER MIND.
HUH?!
WHAT THE HELL?! YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE ME HANGING LIKE THAT! NOW I'M CURIOUS!
SHUT UP! I SAID NEVER MIND, SO JUST DROP IT!
WHAT WAS THE DEAL?!
"LISTEN TO ANYTHING YOU SAY FOR A DAY!"
GOOD!
OKAY.
NOW IT'S MY TURN TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.

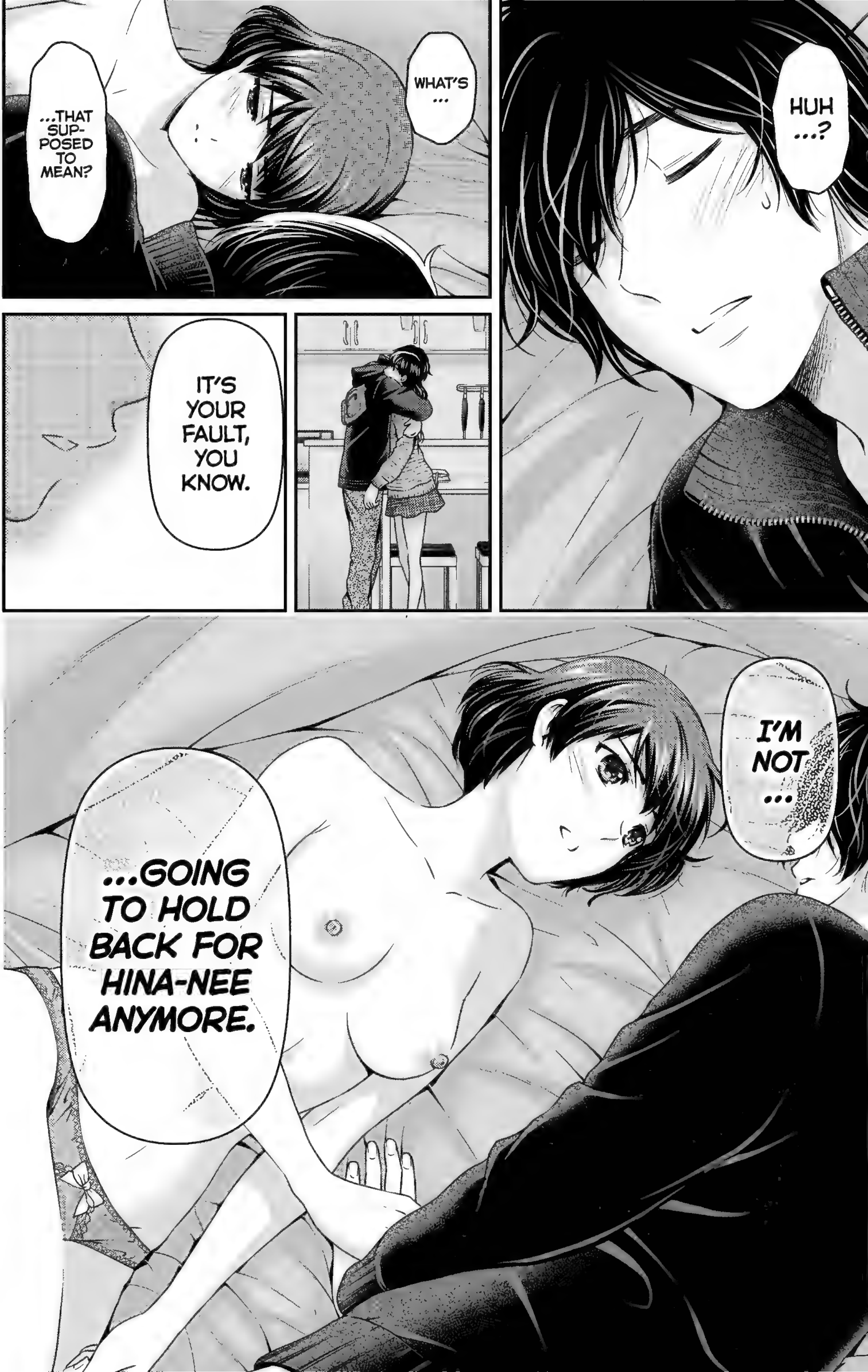

DID YOU DO IT WITH HINA-NEE?
WHA-
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?!
WHY WOULD YOU ASK ME SOMETHING LIKE-
"ANYTHING FOR A DAY!"
...
GRIP
...
... YEAH.
WE WERE GOING OUT, AFTER ALL...

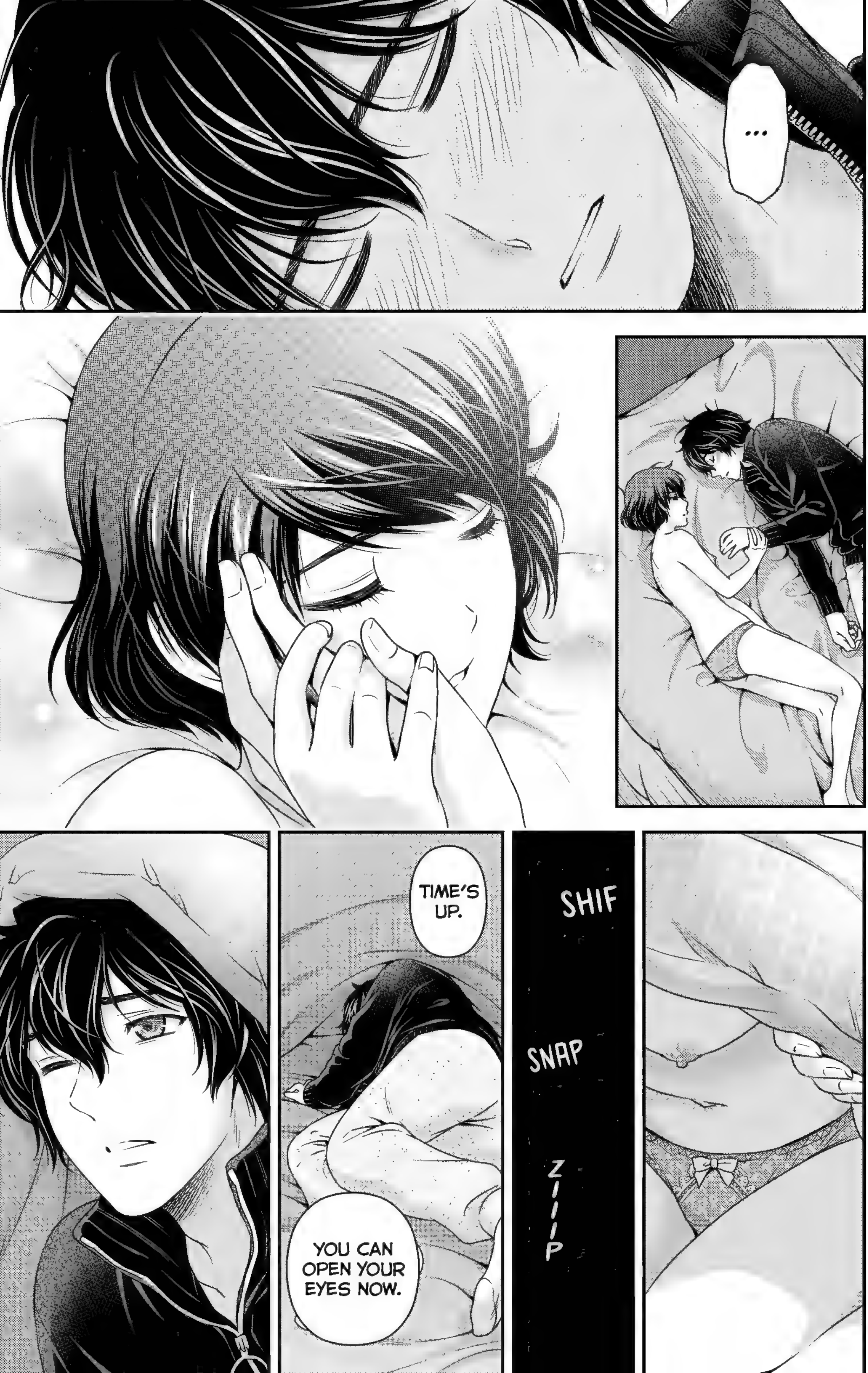

HOW MANY TIMES?
I DON'T REMEMBER!
OH?
YOU DID IT SO MANY TIMES YOU LOST COUNT, HUH?
WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
FINE, FINE! YEAH, WE HAD SEX!
...
HMM...
ギッ
CREAK...
SILENCE

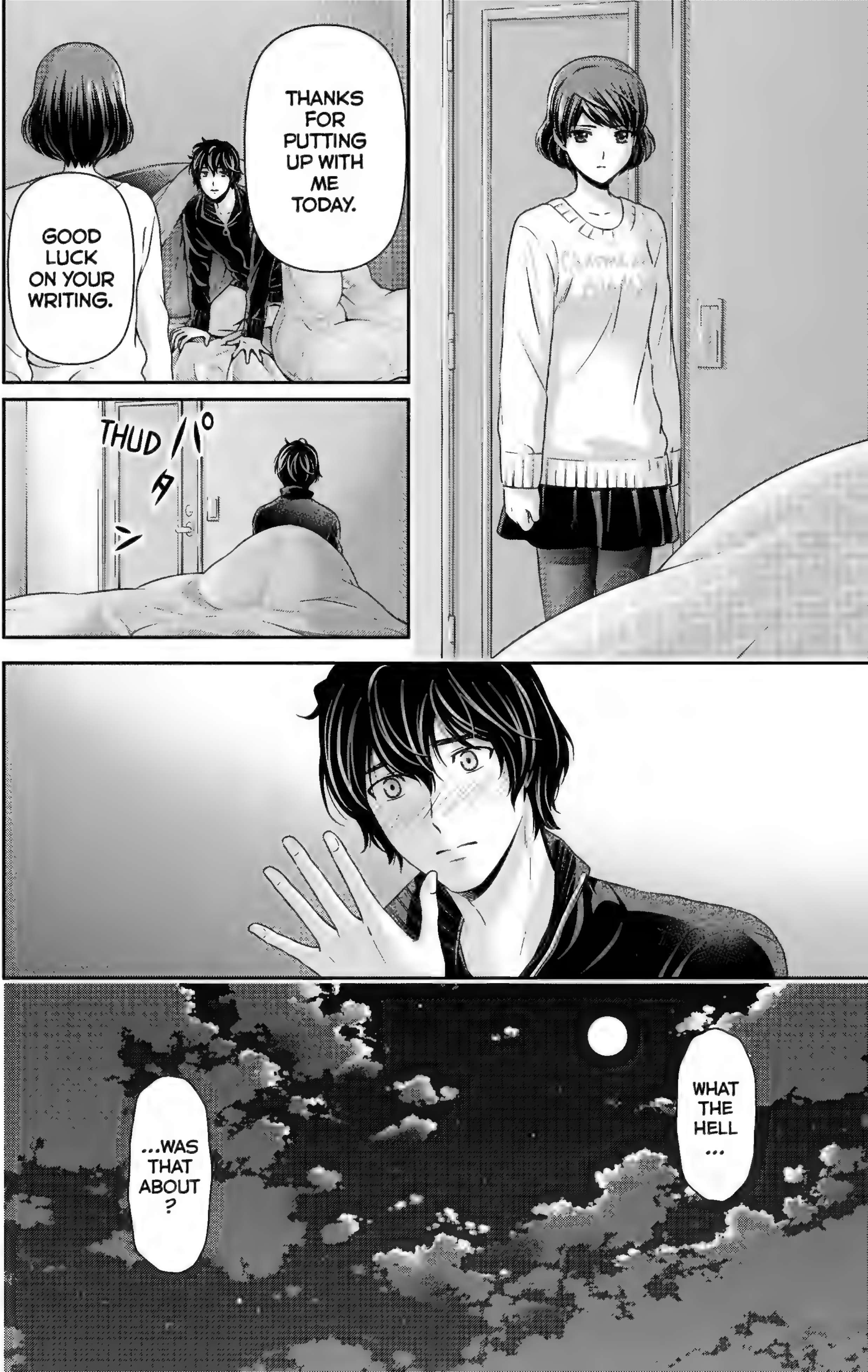

そ
FLIP
…?
お…
HUH?
ARE YOUR EYES STILL CLOSED?
?
YEAH, THEY ARE!
パ
FWUMP
サッ
YOU BETTER…
…KEEP THEM CLOSED, OR ELSE.


I FELT YOU GETTING OFF THE BED.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
...
NOTHING, REALLY.
JUST BE QUIET AND KEEP YOUR EYES CLOSED.
I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME.
SWIF
TWITCH
ピクッ
WHAT–
QUIET.
TWITCH
ピクッ


... YOU'RE HOT.
DO YOU HAVE A FEVER OR SOMETHING?
NO.
I DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF ANYTHING ...
...THE FIRST TIME WE DID IT.
BUT I WONDER ...
...IF IT WOULD BE ANY DIFFERENT NOW.


HUH ...?
WHAT'S ...
...THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN?
IT'S YOUR FAULT, YOU KNOW.
I'M NOT ...
...GOING TO HOLD BACK FOR HINA-NEE ANYMORE.

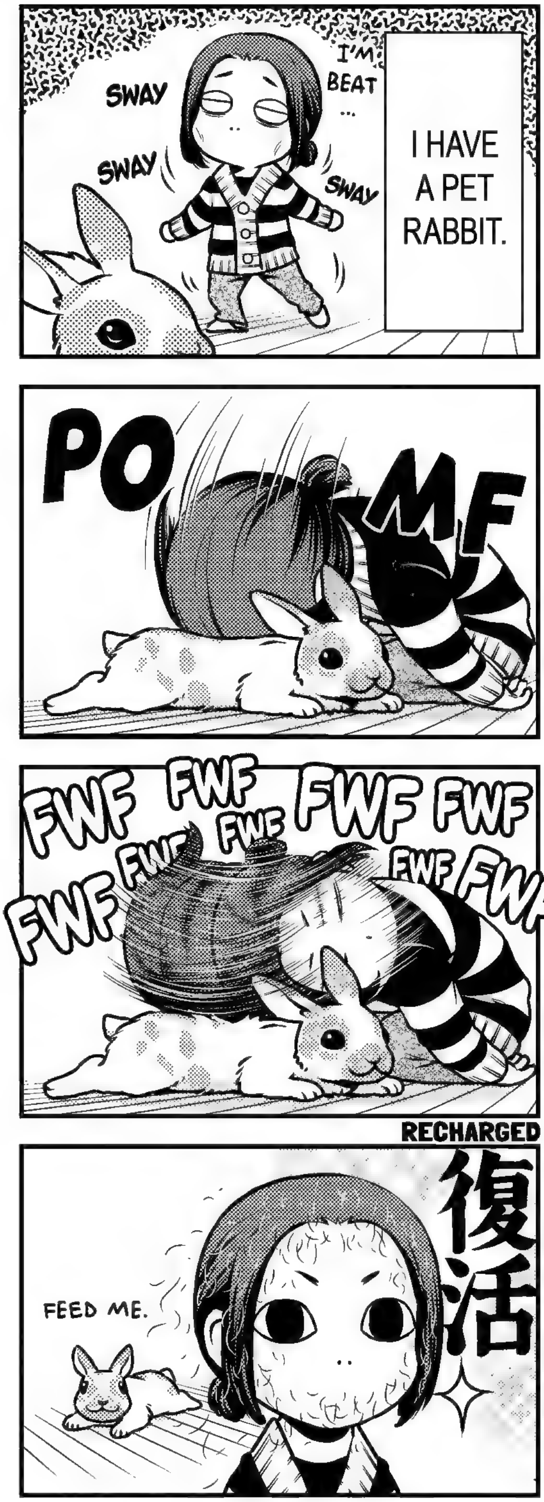

...
TIME'S UP.
YOU CAN OPEN YOUR EYES NOW.
SHIF
SNAP
ZIIIP


THANKS FOR PUTTING UP WITH ME TODAY.
GOOD LUCK ON YOUR WRITING.
THUD パタン
WHAT THE HELL...
...WAS THAT ABOUT?

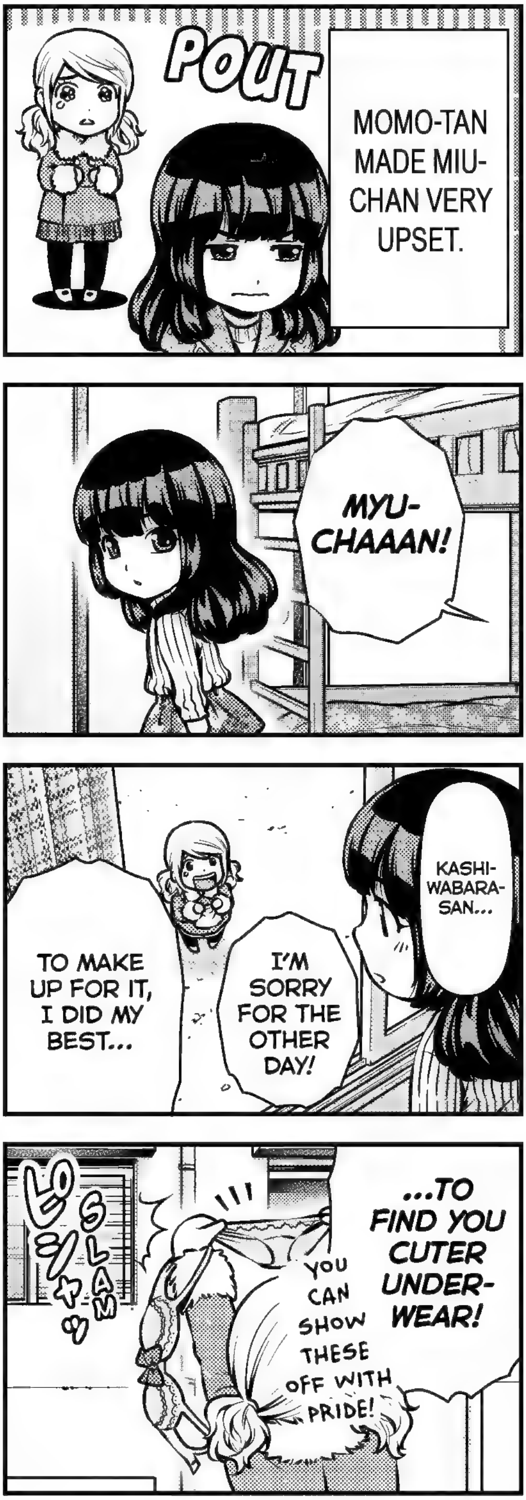
CHAPTER 73: A NEW WIND

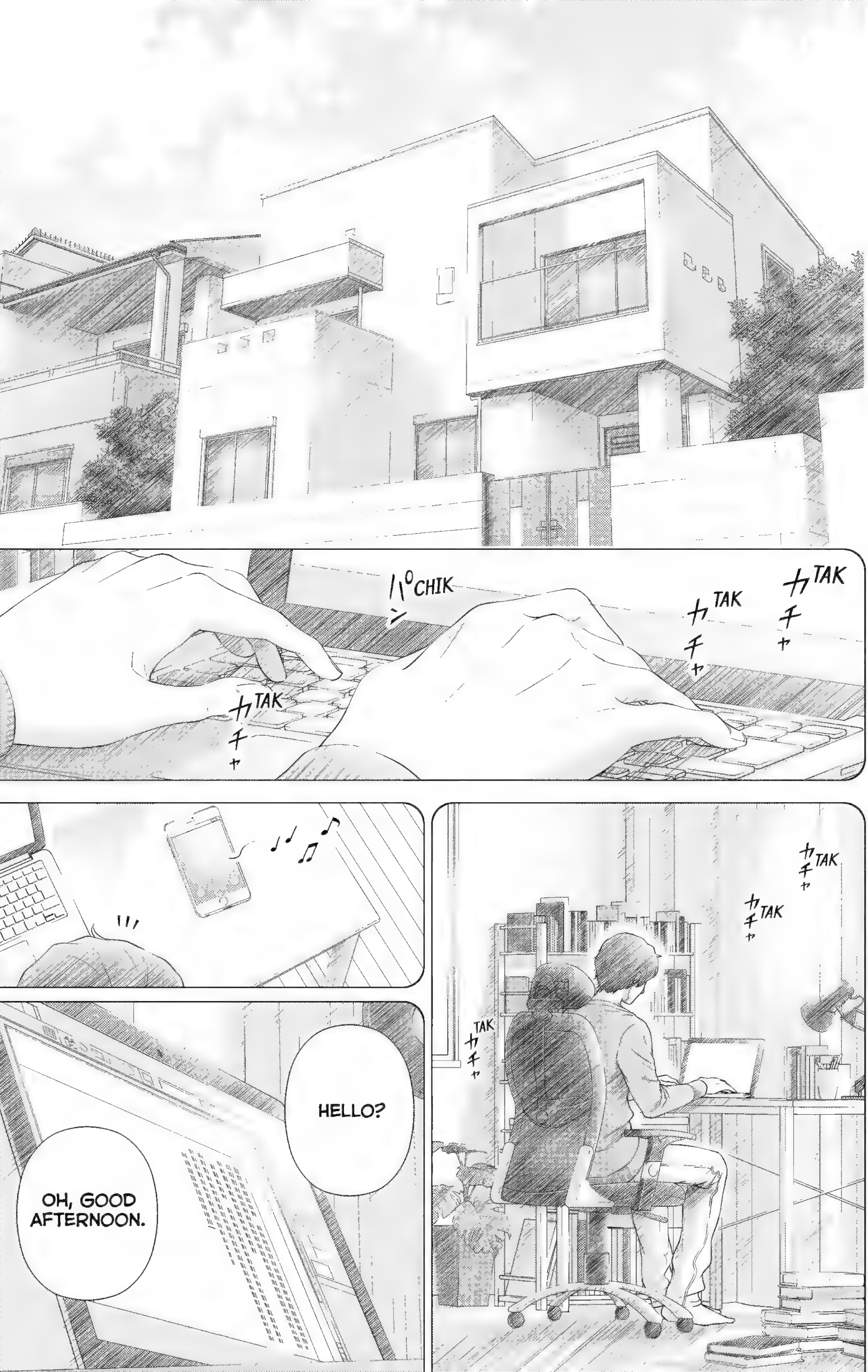
DOMEGIRL 4-PANEL THEATER

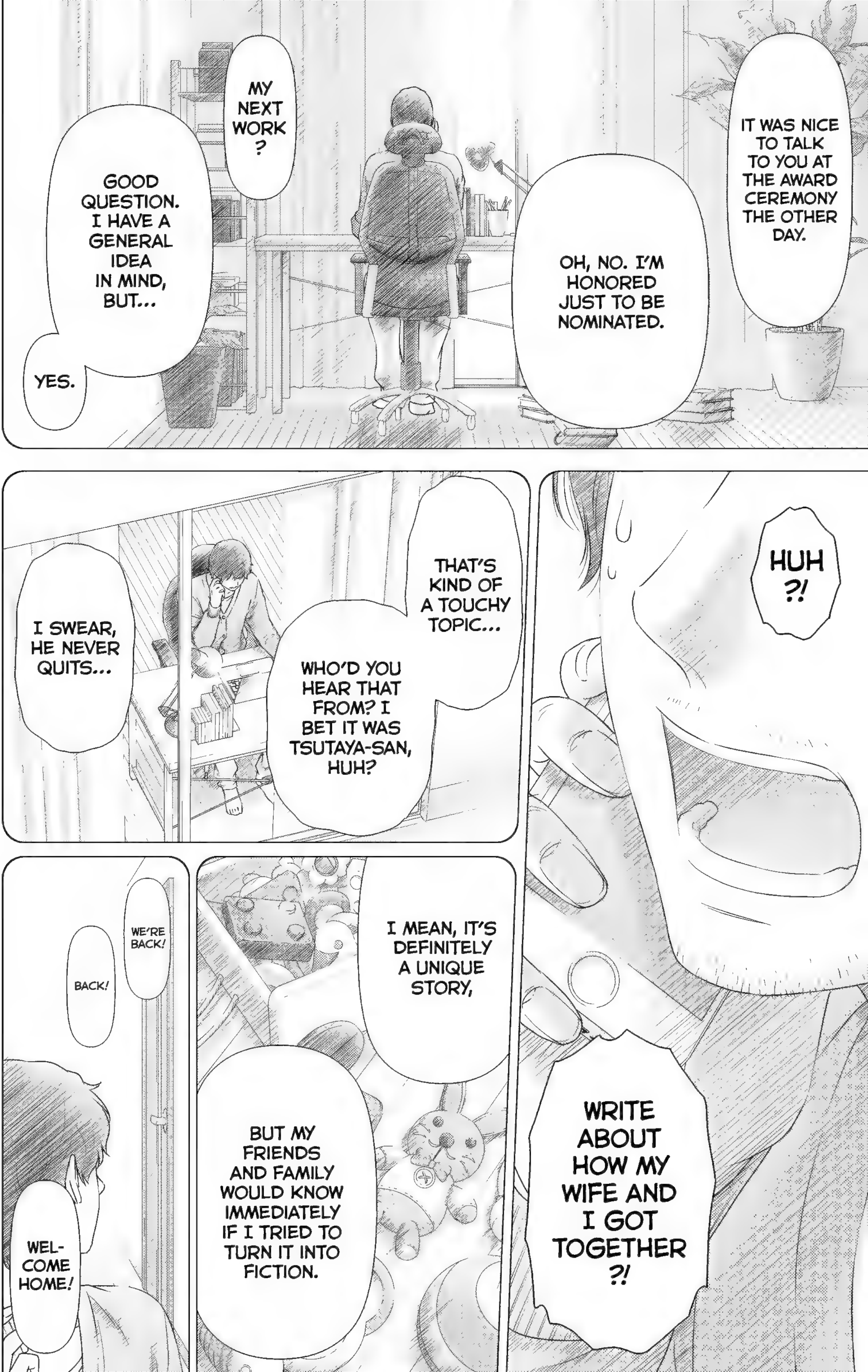
RECOVERY METHOD

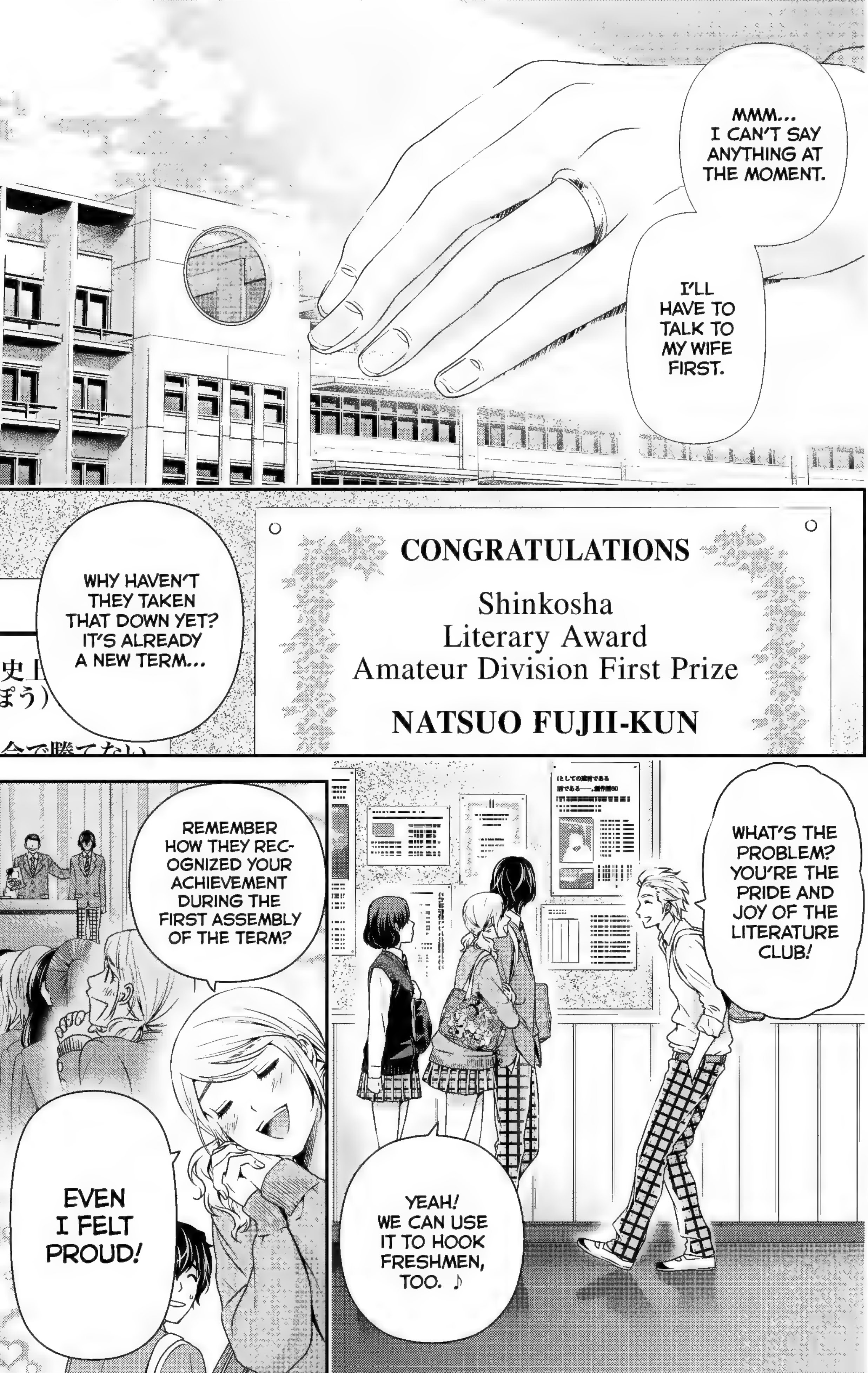

I HAVE A PET RABBIT.
I'M BEAT...
SWAY
SWAY
SWAY
POMF
FWF FWF FWF FWF FWF FWF FWF FWF FWF FWF
RECHARGED
復活
FEED ME.

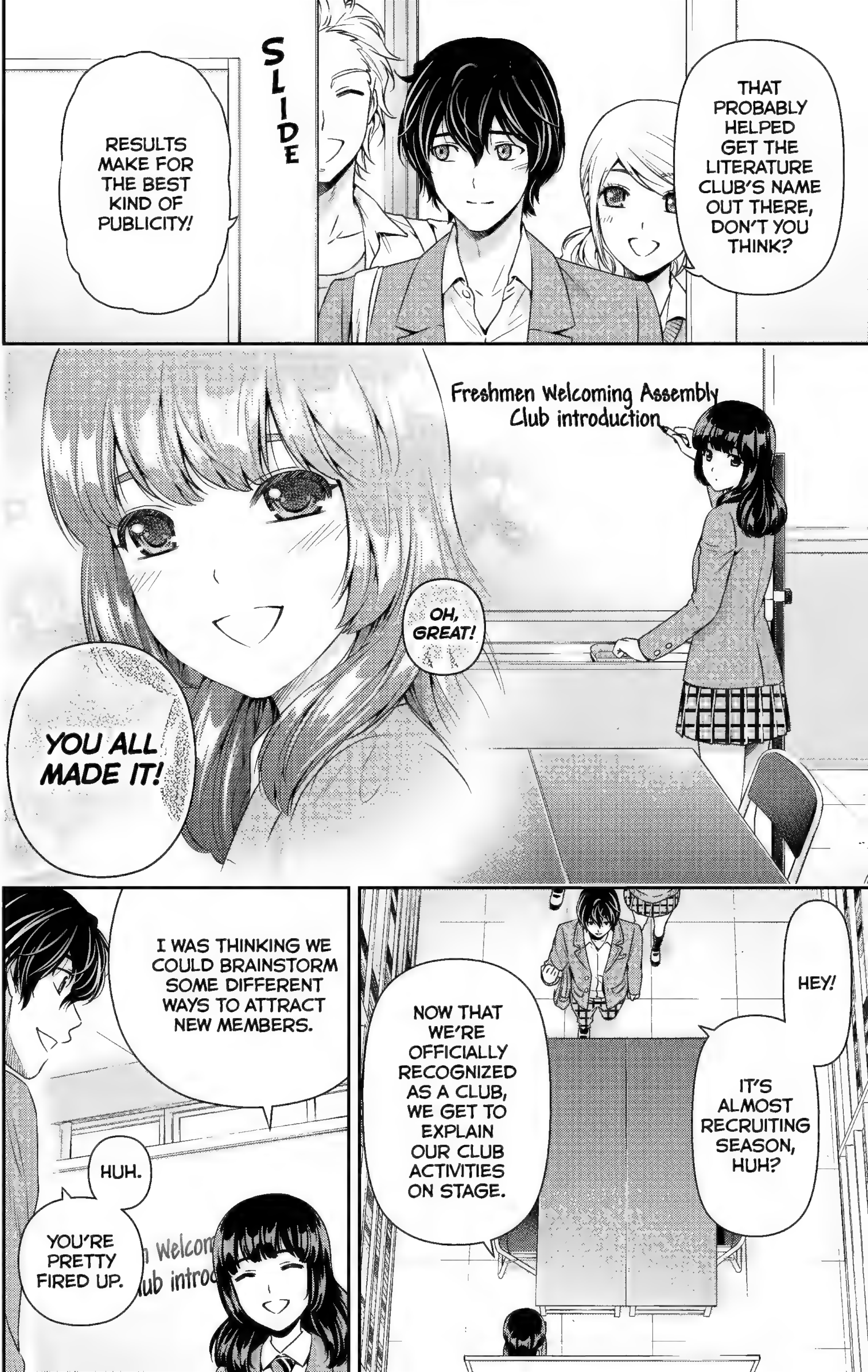
APOLOGY

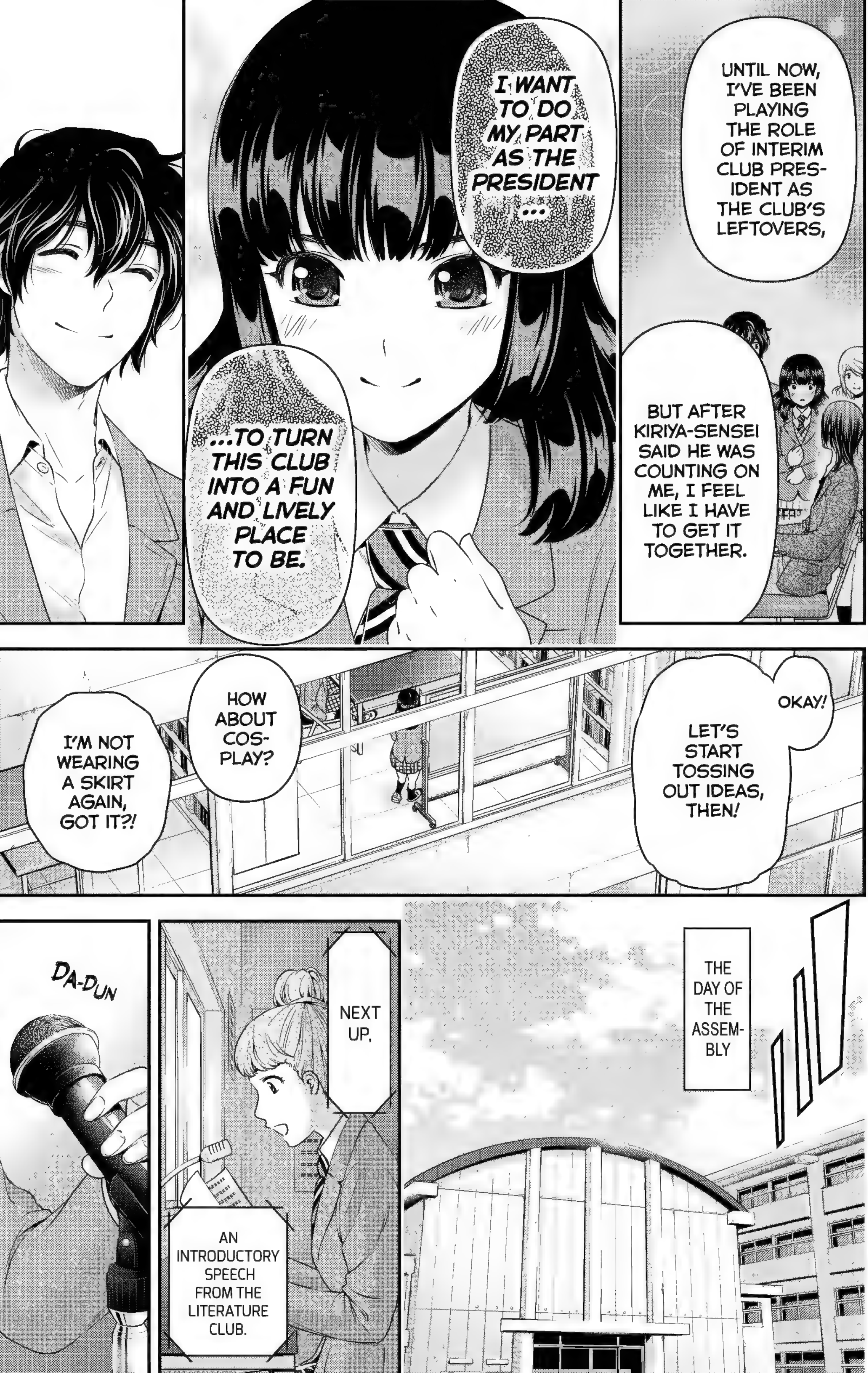

MOMO-TAN MADE MIU-CHAN VERY UPSET.
POUT
MYU-CHAAAN!
KASHI-WABARA-SAN...
I'M SORRY FOR THE OTHER DAY!
TO MAKE UP FOR IT, I DID MY BEST...
...TO FIND YOU CUTER UNDERWEAR!
YOU CAN SHOW THESE OFF WITH PRIDE!
ピシャッ
SLAM

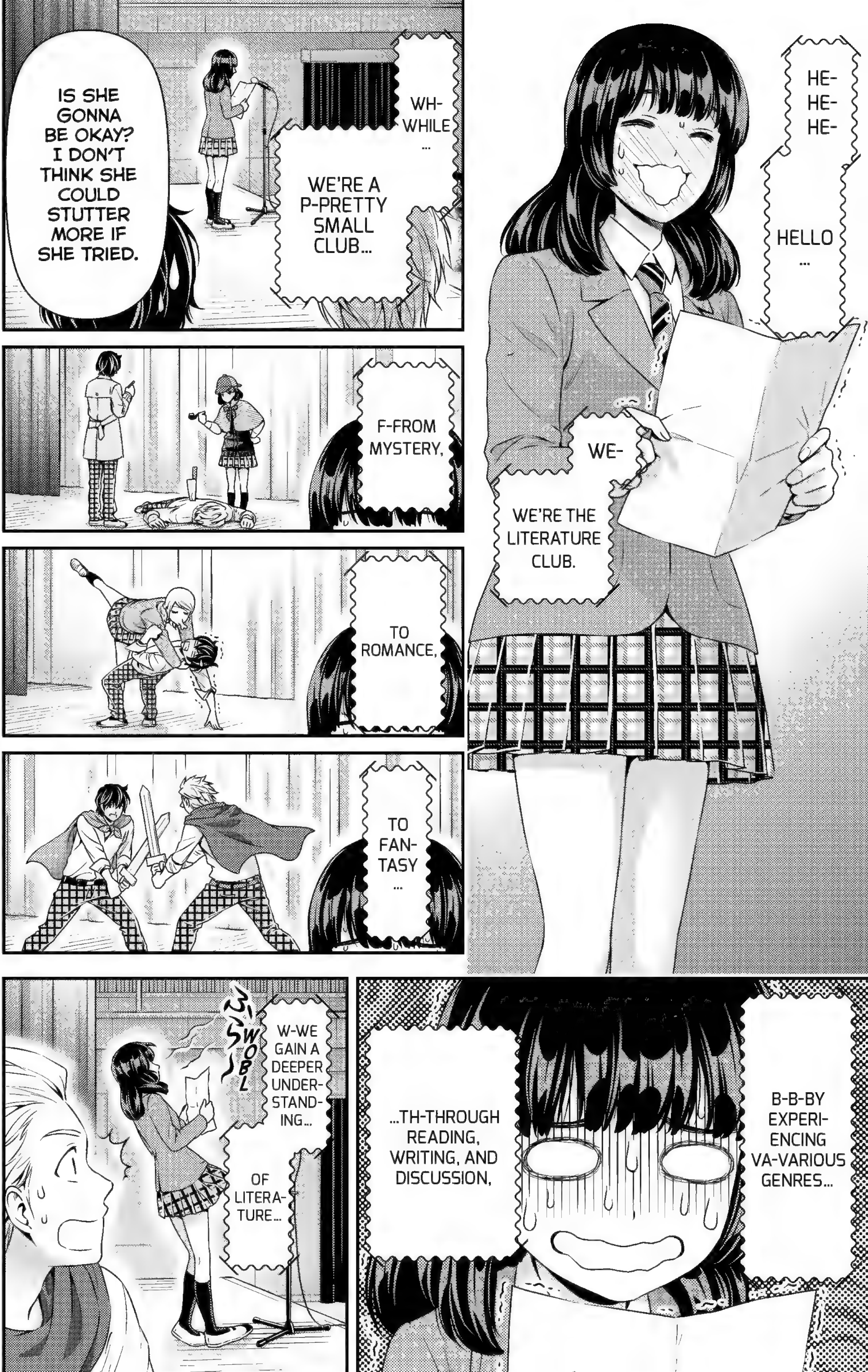

カチャ TAK
カチャ TAK
パン CHIK
カチャ TAK
カチャ TAK
カチャ TAK
カチャ TAK
♩♪♫
HELLO?
OH, GOOD AFTERNOON.

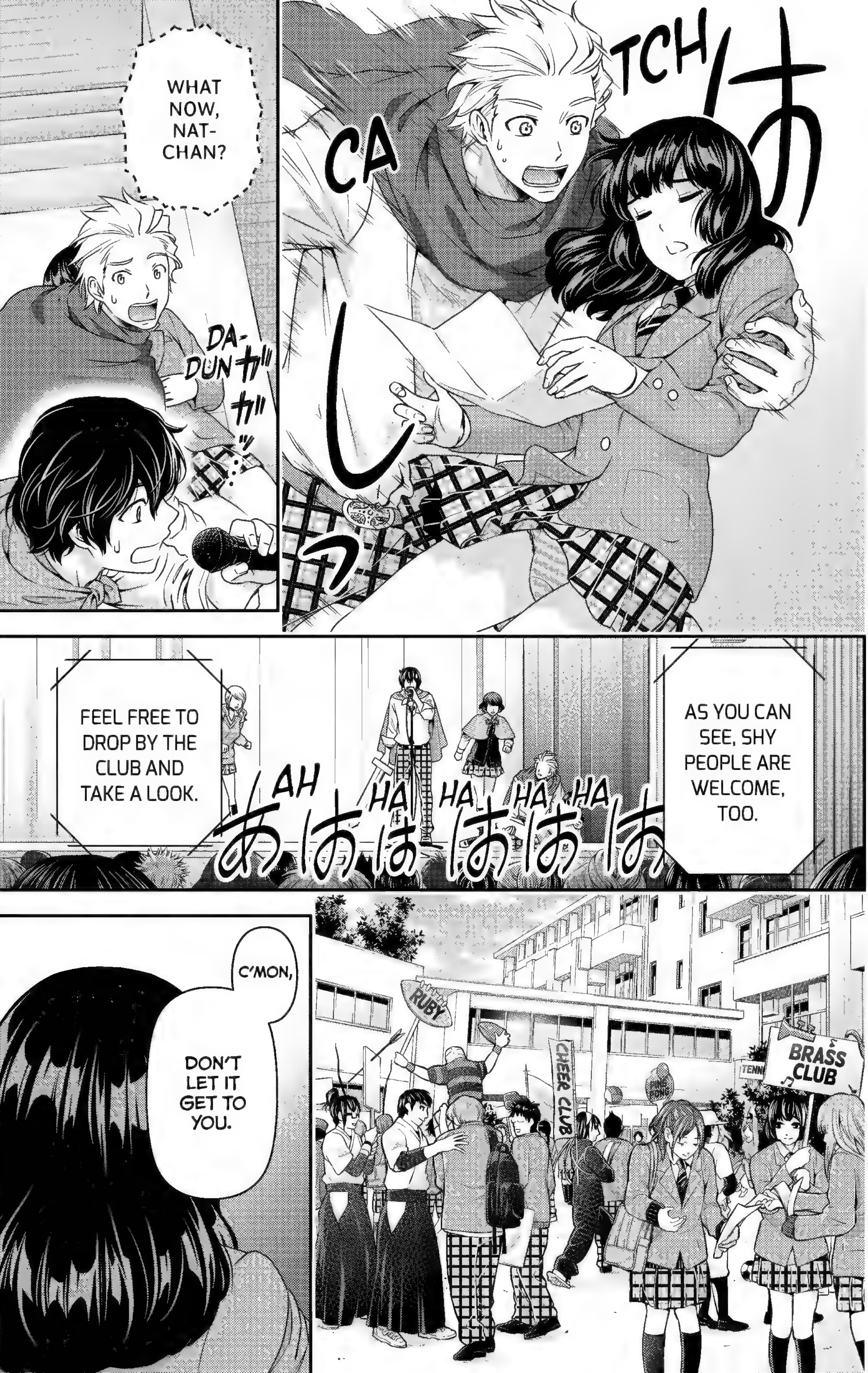

IT WAS NICE TO TALK TO YOU AT THE AWARD CEREMONY THE OTHER DAY.
OH, NO. I'M HONORED JUST TO BE NOMINATED.
MY NEXT WORK?
GOOD QUESTION. I HAVE A GENERAL IDEA IN MIND, BUT...
YES.
HUH?!
WRITE ABOUT HOW MY WIFE AND I GOT TOGETHER?!
THAT'S KIND OF A TOUCHY TOPIC...
WHO'D YOU HEAR THAT FROM? I BET IT WAS TSUTAYA-SAN, HUH?
I SWEAR, HE NEVER QUITS...
I MEAN, IT'S DEFINITELY A UNIQUE STORY,
BUT MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY WOULD KNOW IMMEDIATELY IF I TRIED TO TURN IT INTO FICTION.
WE'RE BACK!
BACK!
WELCOME HOME!

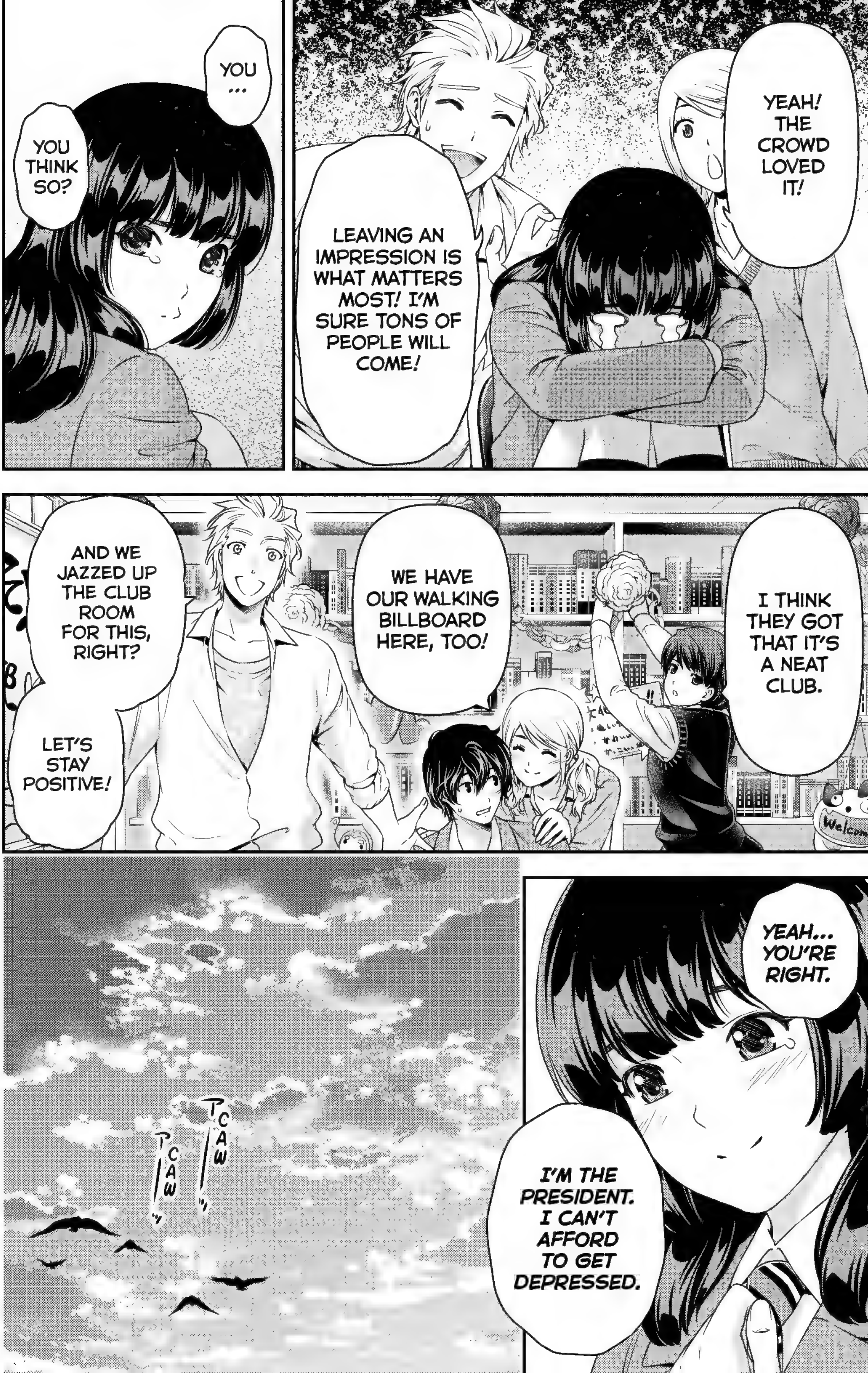

MMM... I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING AT THE MOMENT.
I'LL HAVE TO TALK TO MY WIFE FIRST.
CONGRATULATIONS
Shinkosha Literary Award Amateur Division First Prize
NATSUO FUJII-KUN
WHY HAVEN'T THEY TAKEN THAT DOWN YET? IT'S ALREADY A NEW TERM...
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? YOU'RE THE PRIDE AND JOY OF THE LITERATURE CLUB!
YEAH! WE CAN USE IT TO HOOK FRESHMEN, TOO. ♪
REMEMBER HOW THEY RECOGNIZED YOUR ACHIEVEMENT DURING THE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF THE TERM?
EVEN I FELT PROUD!

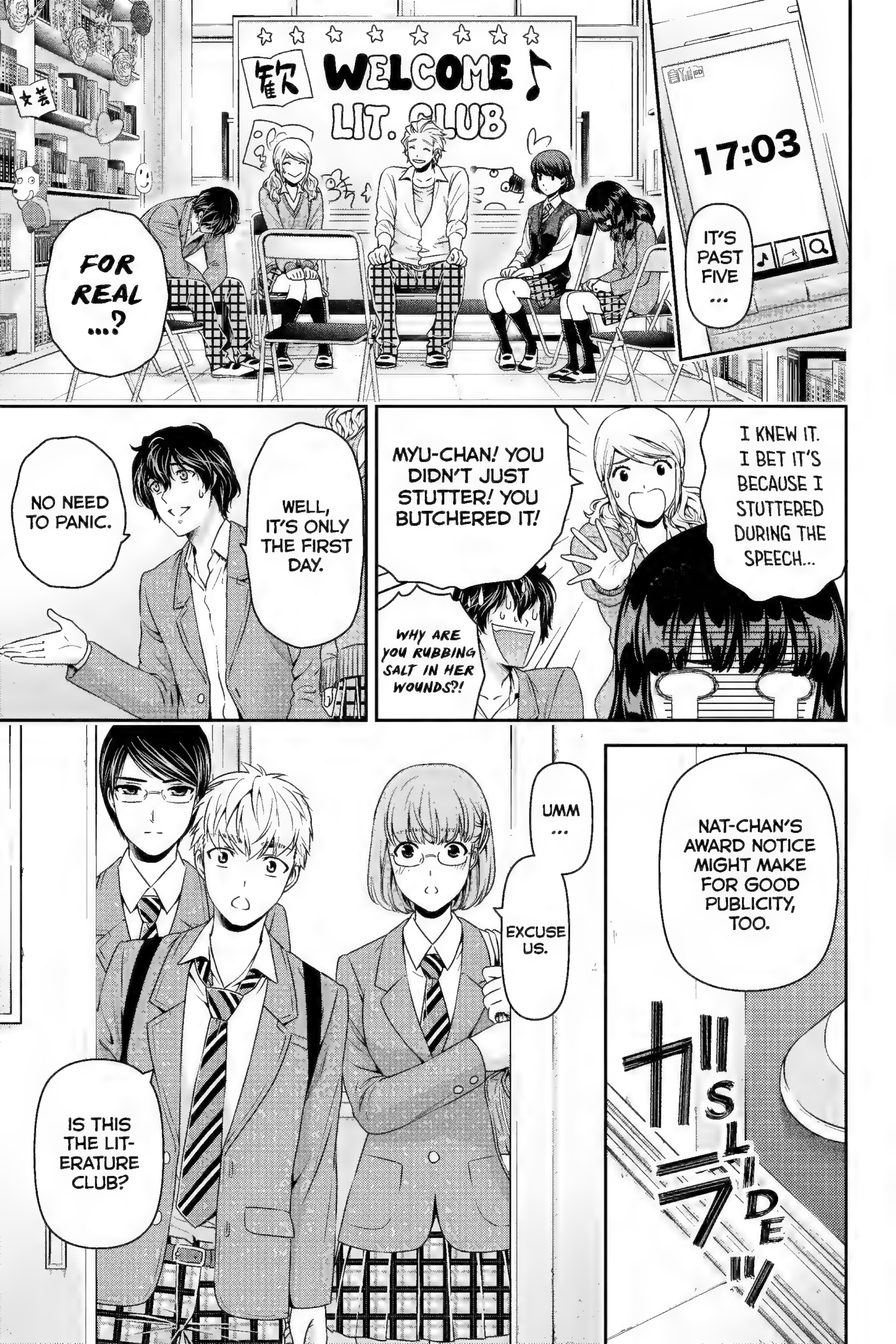

THAT PROBABLY HELPED GET THE LITERATURE CLUB'S NAME OUT THERE, DON'T YOU THINK?
SLIDE
RESULTS MAKE FOR THE BEST KIND OF PUBLICITY!
Freshmen Welcoming Assembly
Club introduction
OH, GREAT!
YOU ALL MADE IT!
HEY!
IT'S ALMOST RECRUITING SEASON, HUH?
NOW THAT WE'RE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED AS A CLUB, WE GET TO EXPLAIN OUR CLUB ACTIVITIES ON STAGE.
I WAS THINKING WE COULD BRAINSTORM SOME DIFFERENT WAYS TO ATTRACT NEW MEMBERS.
HUH.
YOU'RE PRETTY FIRED UP.

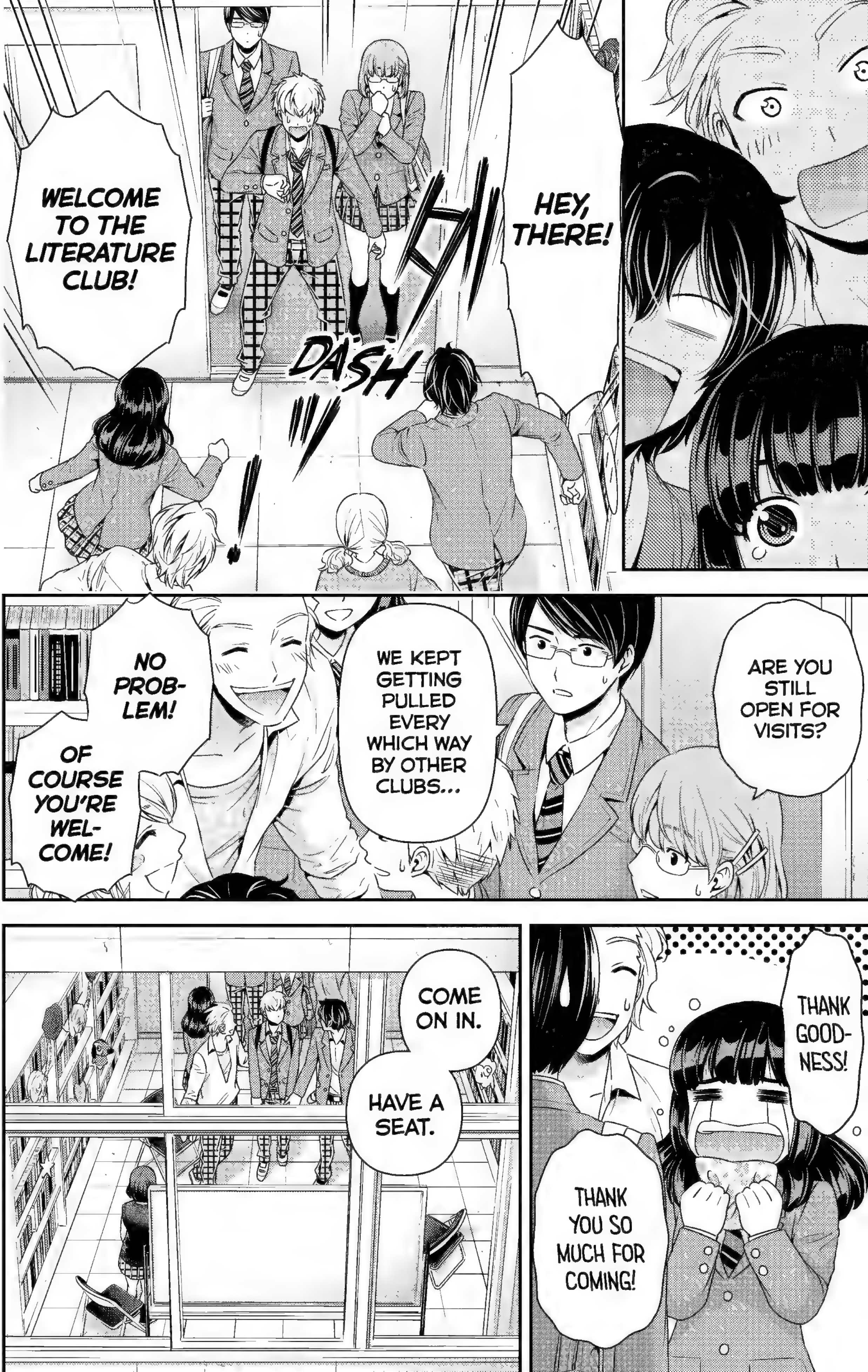

UNTIL NOW, I'VE BEEN PLAYING THE ROLE OF INTERIM CLUB PRESIDENT AS THE CLUB'S LEFTOVERS,
BUT AFTER KIRIYA-SENSEI SAID HE WAS COUNTING ON ME, I FEEL LIKE I HAVE TO GET IT TOGETHER.
I WANT TO DO MY PART AS THE PRESIDENT...
...TO TURN THIS CLUB INTO A FUN AND LIVELY PLACE TO BE.
OKAY!
LET'S START TOSSING OUT IDEAS, THEN!
HOW ABOUT COSPLAY?
I'M NOT WEARING A SKIRT AGAIN, GOT IT?!
THE DAY OF THE ASSEMBLY
NEXT UP,
AN INTRODUCTORY SPEECH FROM THE LITERATURE CLUB.
DA-DUN

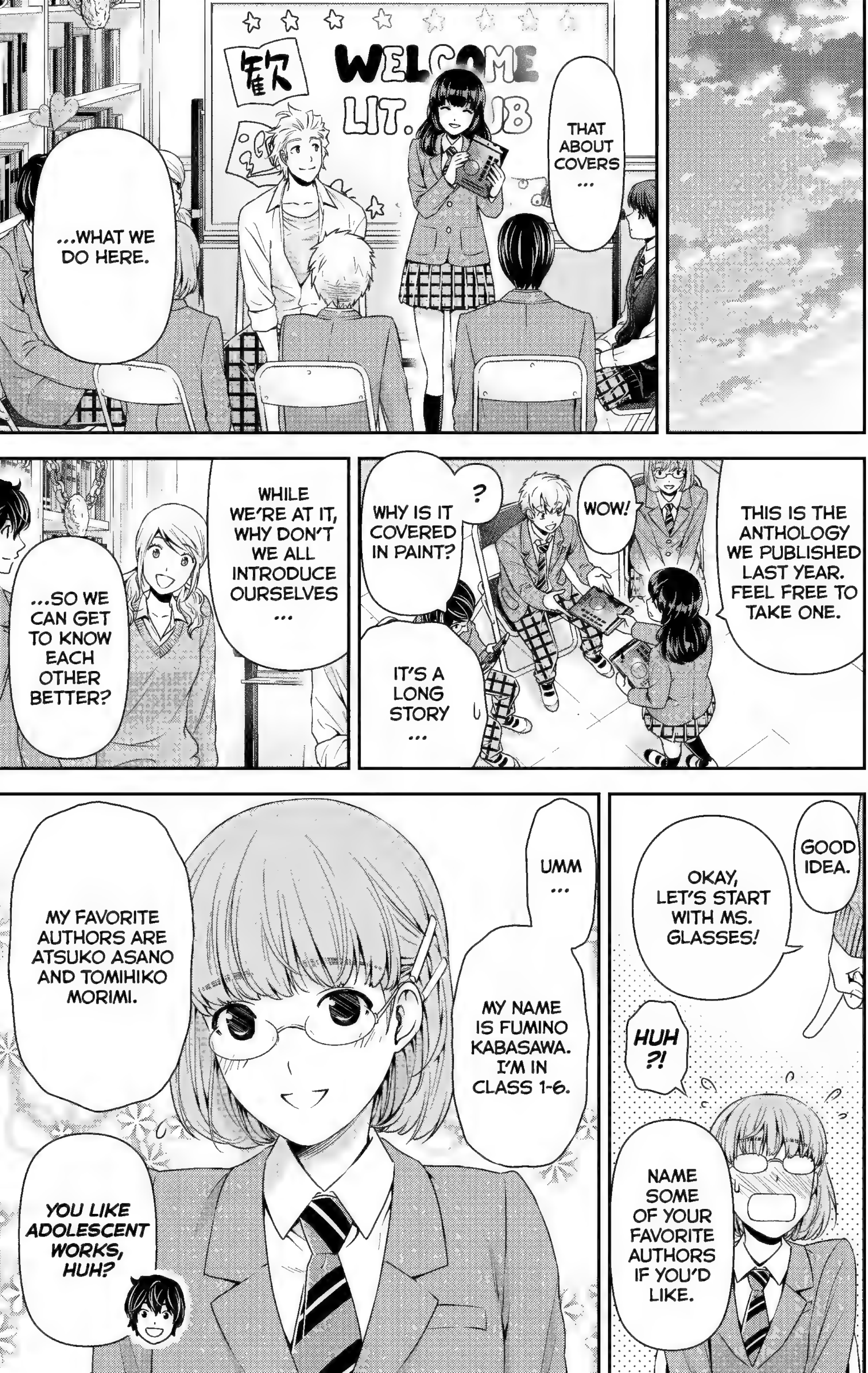

HE-HE-HE-
HELLO...
WE-
WE'RE THE LITERATURE CLUB.
WH-WHILE...
WE'RE A P-PRETTY SMALL CLUB...
IS SHE GONNA BE OKAY? I DON'T THINK SHE COULD STUTTER MORE IF SHE TRIED.
F-FROM MYSTERY,
TO ROMANCE,
TO FANTASY...
B-B-BY EXPERIENCING VA-VARIOUS GENRES...
...TH-THROUGH READING, WRITING, AND DISCUSSION,
ふら
WOBL
W-WE GAIN A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING...
OF LITERATURE...

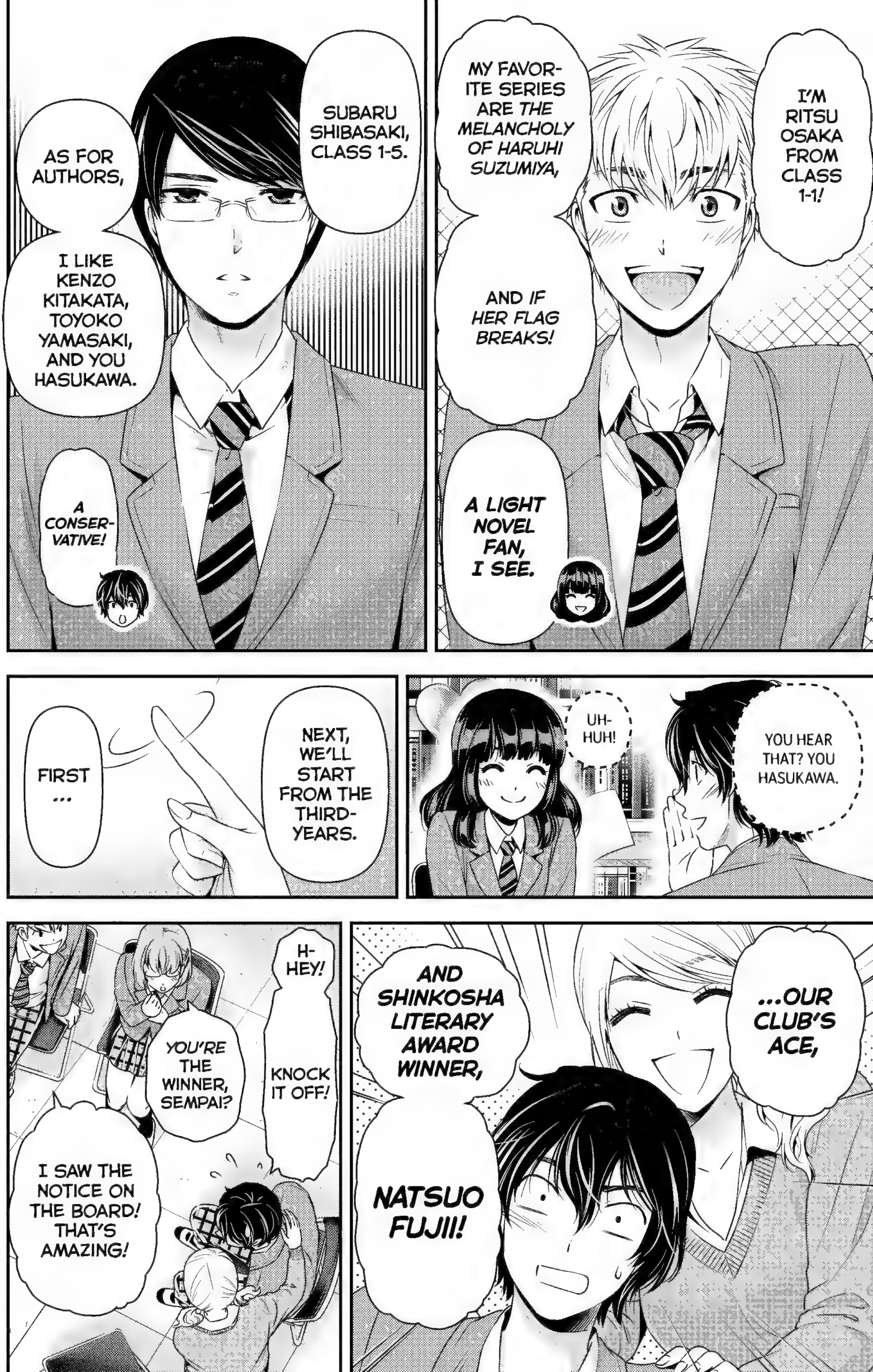

CA TCH
あしっ
WHAT NOW, NAT-CHAN?
DA-DUN ガガガッ
AS YOU CAN SEE, SHY PEOPLE ARE WELCOME, TOO.
AH HA HA HA HA
あははははは
FEEL FREE TO DROP BY THE CLUB AND TAKE A LOOK.
BRASS CLUB
TENN
PING PONG
CHEER CLUB
RUBY
C'MON,
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.

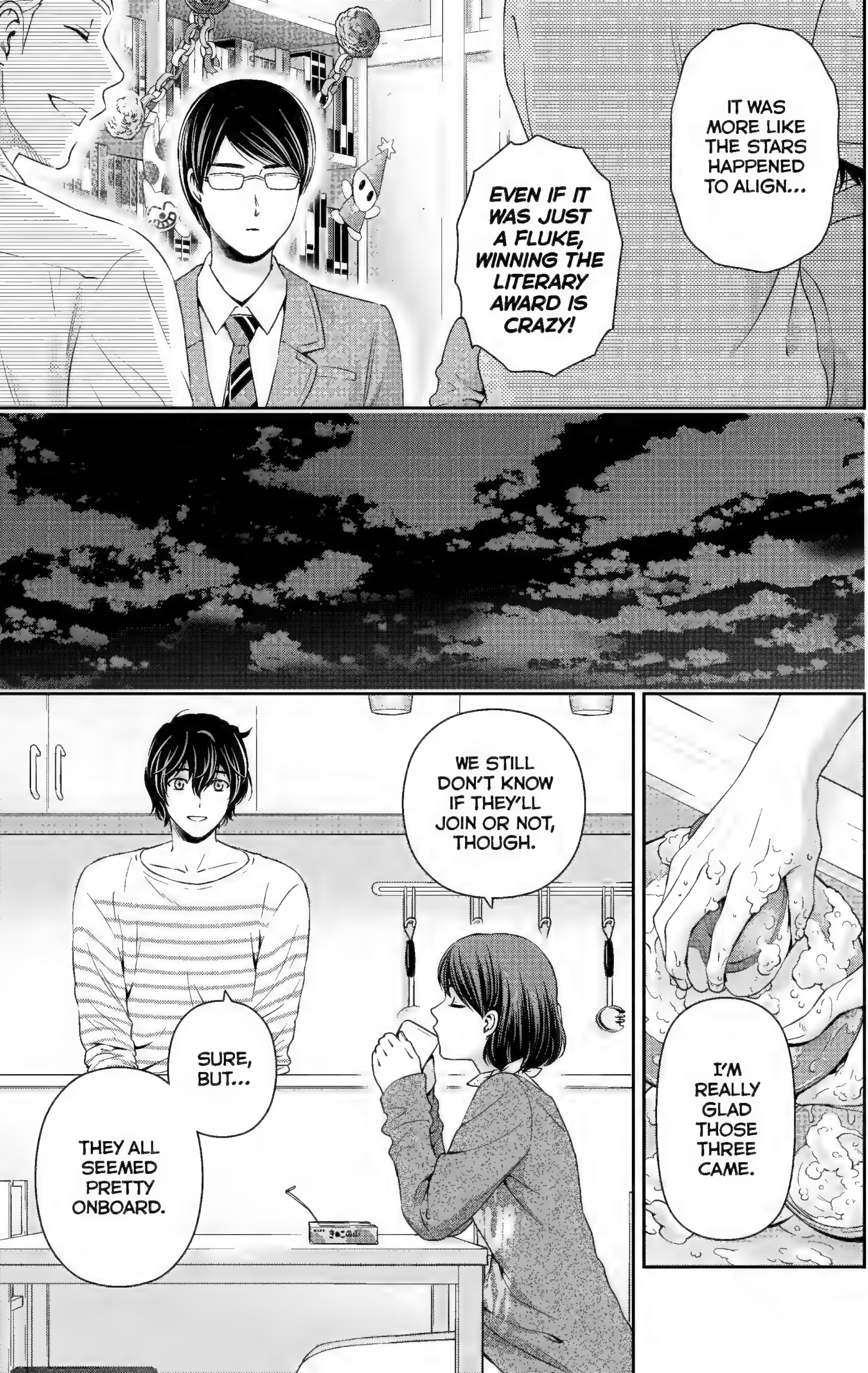

YEAH! THE CROWD LOVED IT!
LEAVING AN IMPRESSION IS WHAT MATTERS MOST! I'M SURE TONS OF PEOPLE WILL COME!
YOU ...
YOU THINK SO?
I THINK THEY GOT THAT IT'S A NEAT CLUB.
Welcom
WE HAVE OUR WALKING BILLBOARD HERE, TOO!
AND WE JAZZED UP THE CLUB ROOM FOR THIS, RIGHT?
LET'S STAY POSITIVE!
YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'M THE PRESIDENT. I CAN'T AFFORD TO GET DEPRESSED.
CAW
CAW

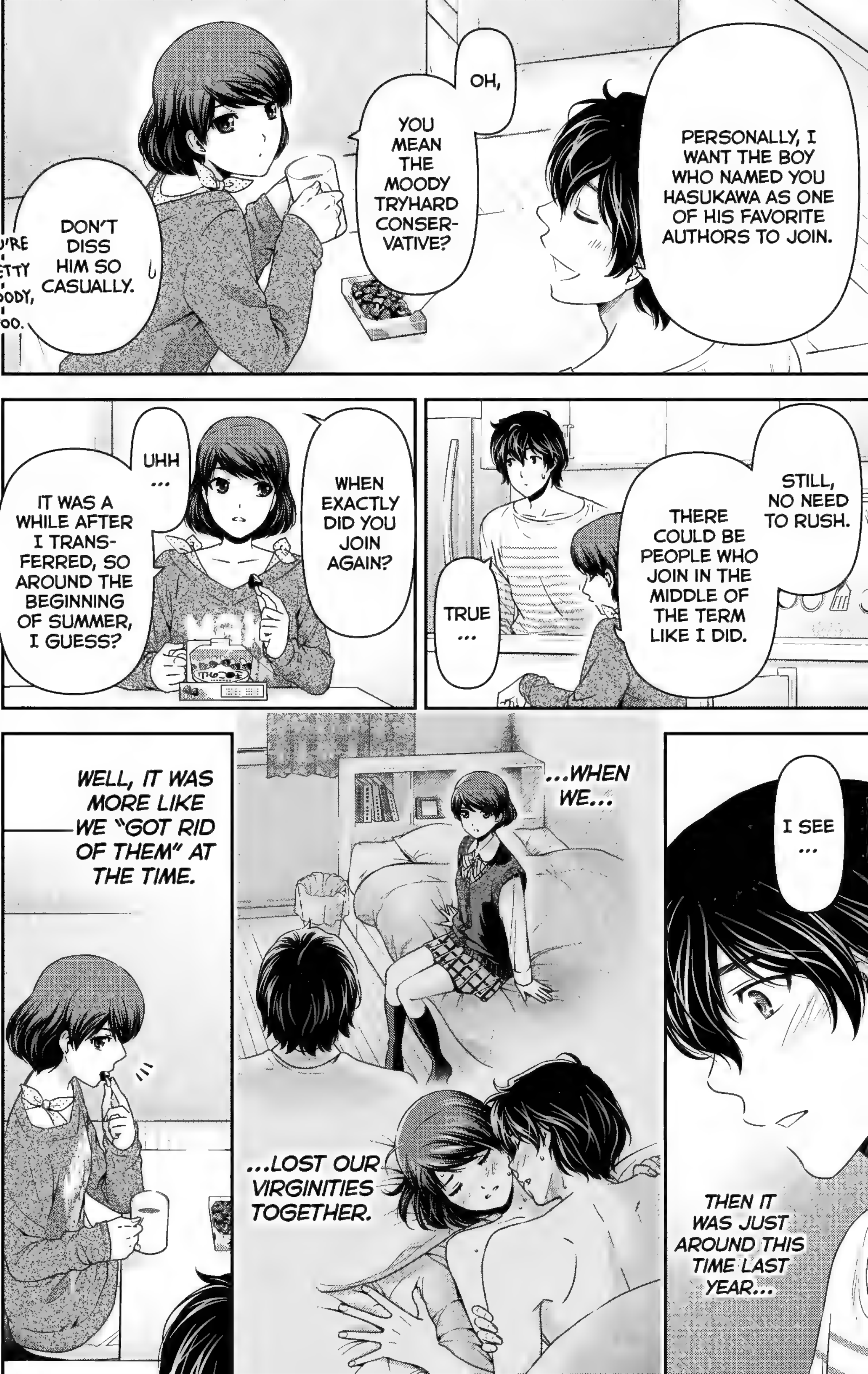

歓 WELCOME♪
LIT. CLUB
文芸
17:03
IT'S PAST FIVE…
FOR REAL…?
I KNEW IT. I BET IT'S BECAUSE I STUTTERED DURING THE SPEECH…
MYU-CHAN! YOU DIDN'T JUST STUTTER! YOU BUTCHERED IT!
WHY ARE YOU RUBBING SALT IN HER WOUNDS?!
WELL, IT'S ONLY THE FIRST DAY.
NO NEED TO PANIC.
NAT-CHAN'S AWARD NOTICE MIGHT MAKE FOR GOOD PUBLICITY, TOO.
ガラ SLIDE
UMM…
EXCUSE US.
IS THIS THE LITERATURE CLUB?

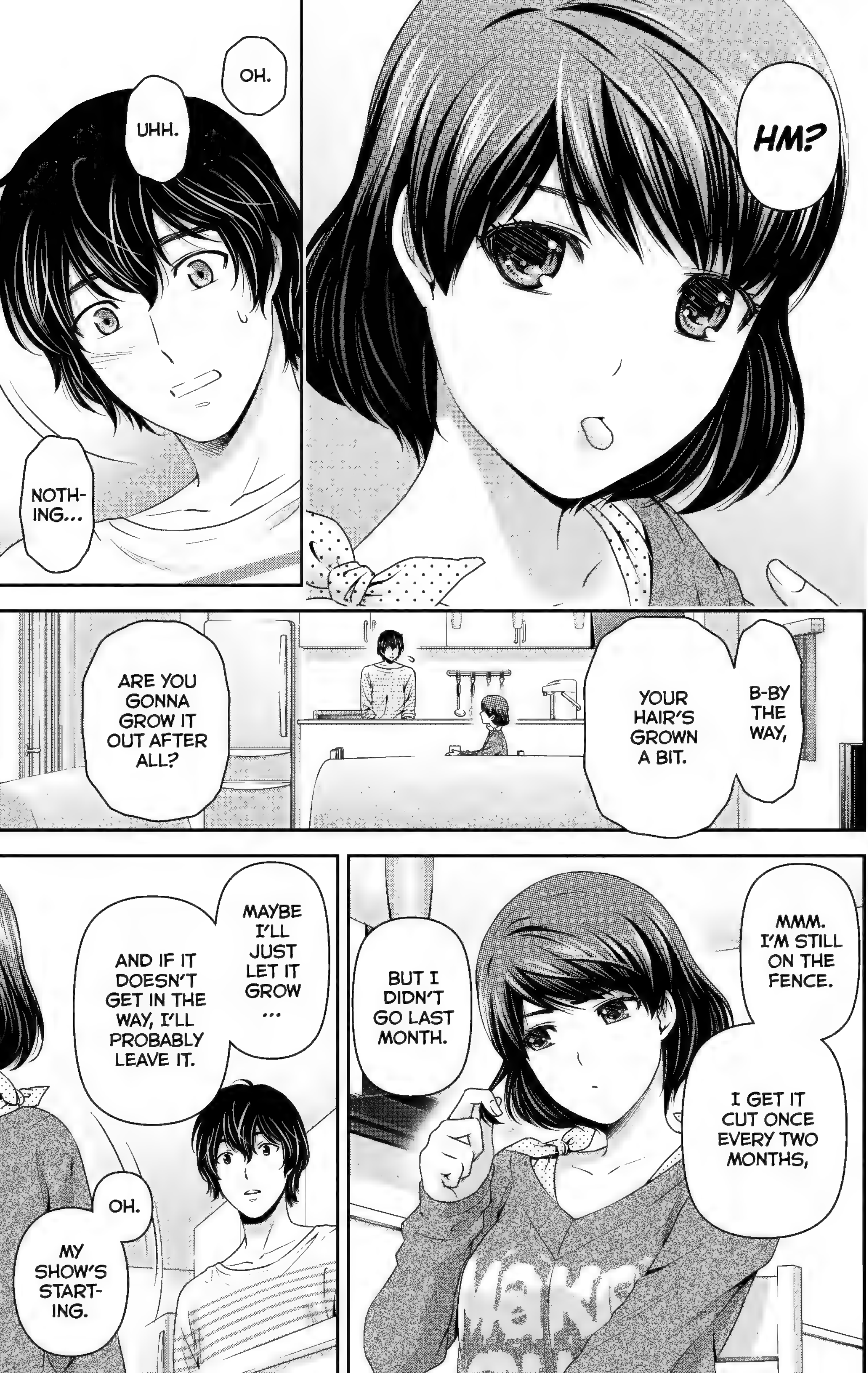

HEY, THERE!
WELCOME TO THE LITERATURE CLUB!
DASH
ARE YOU STILL OPEN FOR VISITS?
WE KEPT GETTING PULLED EVERY WHICH WAY BY OTHER CLUBS...
NO PROBLEM!
OF COURSE YOU'RE WELCOME!
THANK GOODNESS!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING!
COME ON IN.
HAVE A SEAT.

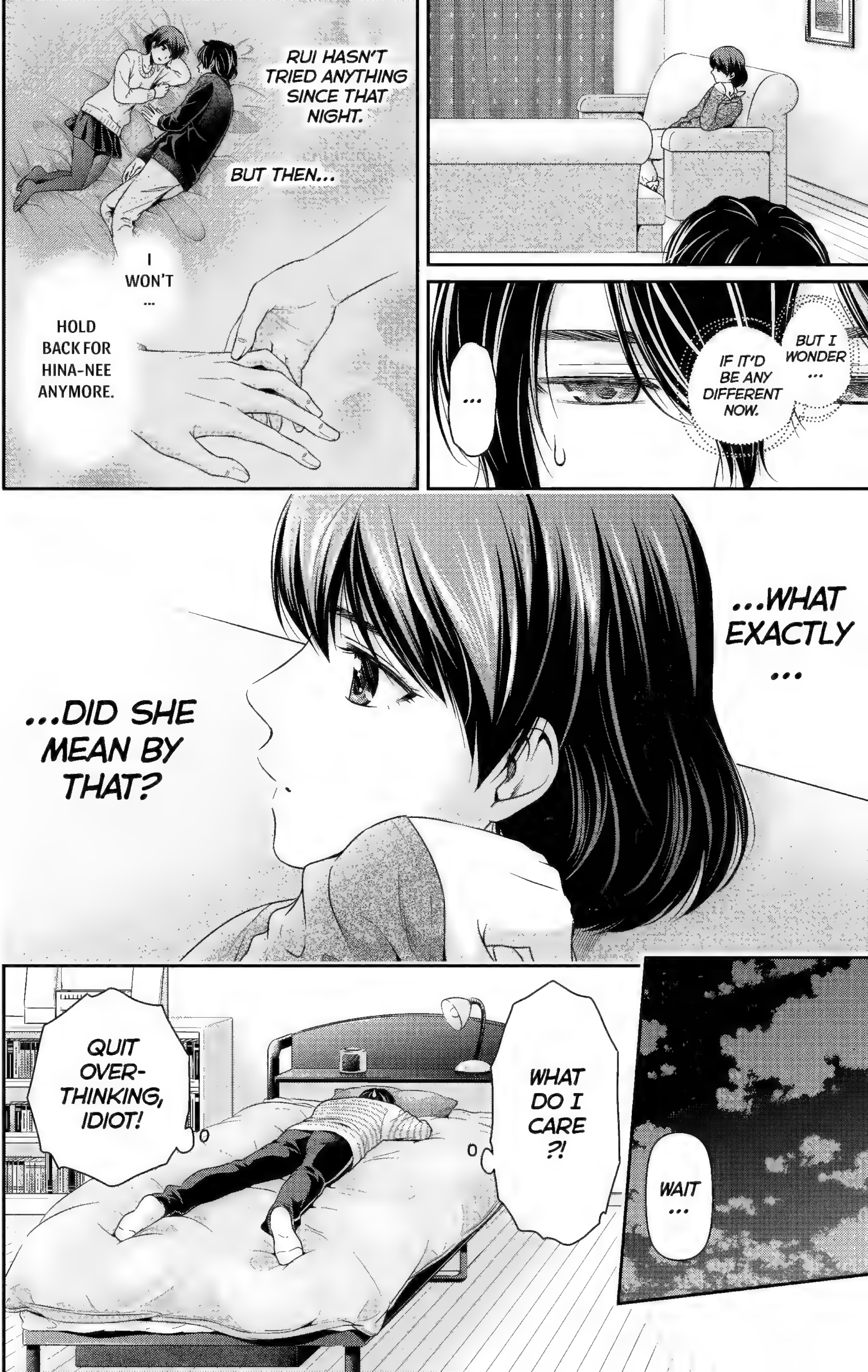

歓
WELCOME
LIT. UB
THAT ABOUT COVERS...
...WHAT WE DO HERE.
THIS IS THE ANTHOLOGY WE PUBLISHED LAST YEAR. FEEL FREE TO TAKE ONE.
WOW!
?
WHY IS IT COVERED IN PAINT?
IT'S A LONG STORY...
WHILE WE'RE AT IT, WHY DON'T WE ALL INTRODUCE OURSELVES...
...SO WE CAN GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER?
GOOD IDEA.
OKAY, LET'S START WITH MS. GLASSES!
HUH?!
NAME SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE AUTHORS IF YOU'D LIKE.
UMM...
MY NAME IS FUMINO KABASAWA. I'M IN CLASS 1-6.
MY FAVORITE AUTHORS ARE ATSUKO ASANO AND TOMIHIKO MORIMI.
YOU LIKE ADOLESCENT WORKS, HUH?

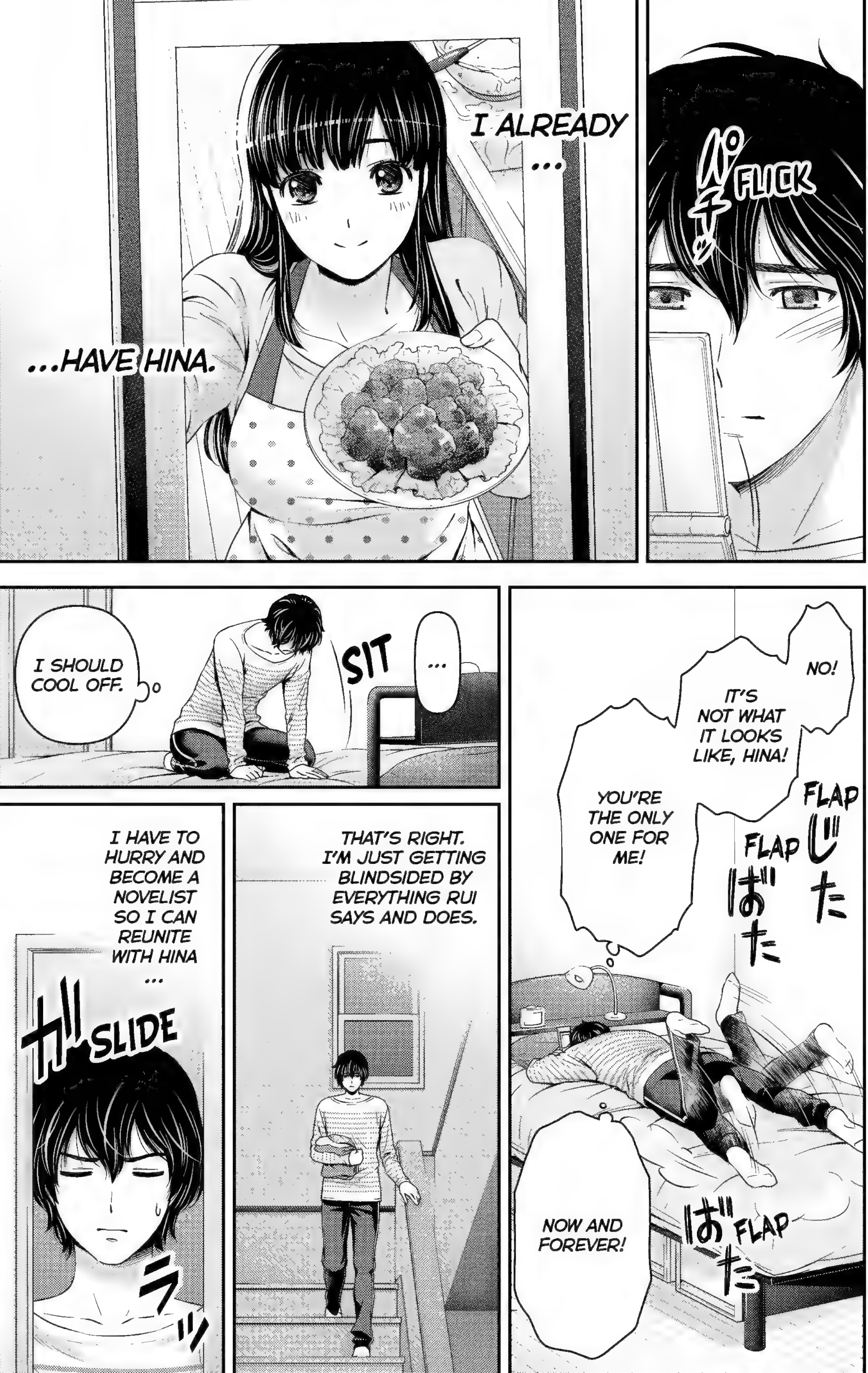

I'M RITSU OSAKA FROM CLASS 1-1!
MY FAVORITE SERIES ARE *THE MELANCHOLY OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA*,
AND *IF HER FLAG BREAKS*!
A LIGHT NOVEL FAN, I SEE.
SUBARU SHIBASAKI, CLASS 1-5.
AS FOR AUTHORS,
I LIKE KENZO KITAKATA, TOYOKO YAMASAKI, AND YOU HASUKAWA.
A CONSERVATIVE!
YOU HEAR THAT? YOU HASUKAWA.
UH-HUH!
NEXT, WE'LL START FROM THE THIRD-YEARS.
FIRST ...
...OUR CLUB'S ACE,
AND SHINKOSHA LITERARY AWARD WINNER,
NATSUO FUJII!
H-HEY!
KNOCK IT OFF!
YOU'RE THE WINNER, SEMPAI?
I SAW THE NOTICE ON THE BOARD! THAT'S AMAZING!

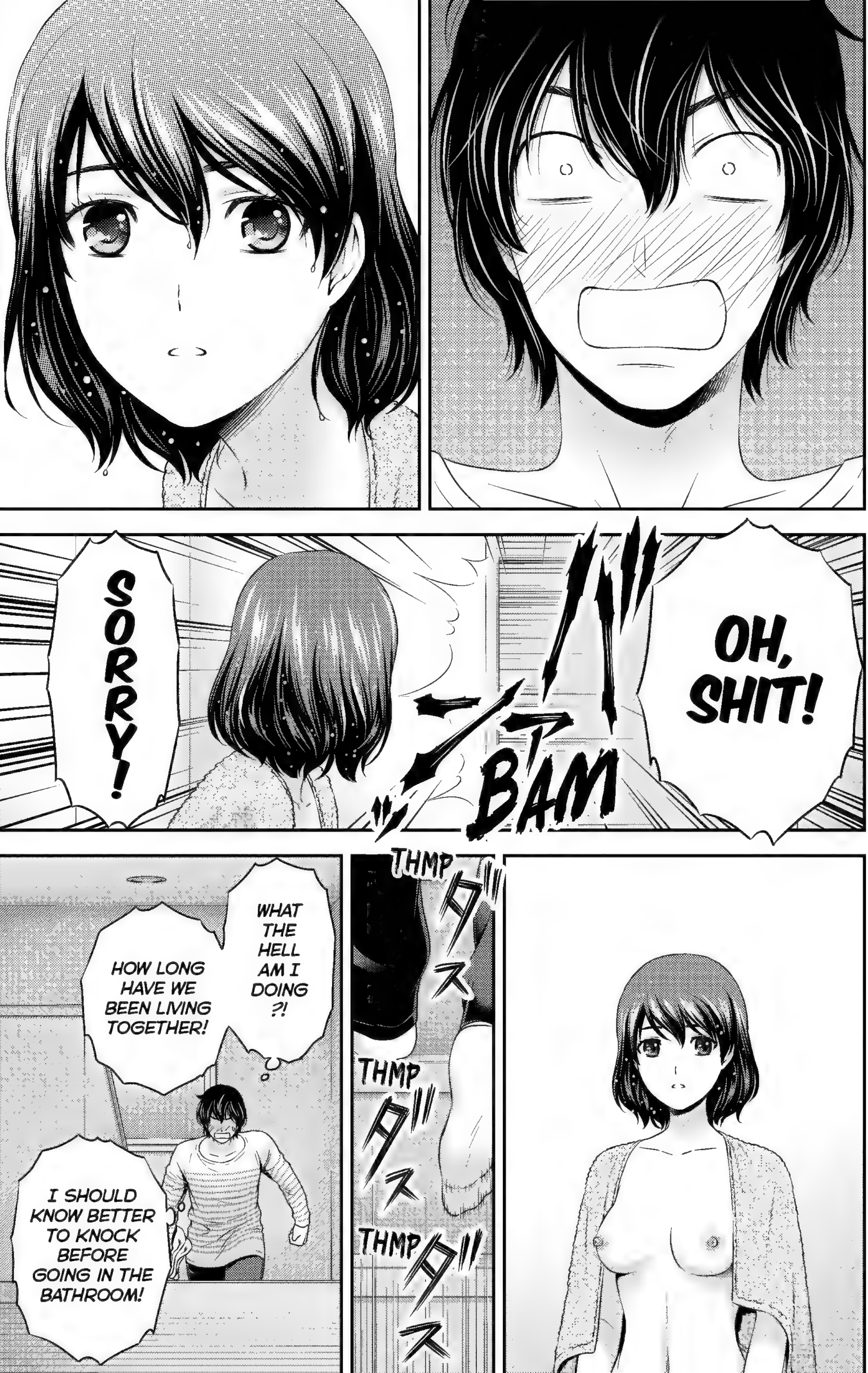

IT WAS MORE LIKE THE STARS HAPPENED TO ALIGN…
EVEN IF IT WAS JUST A FLUKE, WINNING THE LITERARY AWARD IS CRAZY!
I'M REALLY GLAD THOSE THREE CAME.
WE STILL DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL JOIN OR NOT, THOUGH.
SURE, BUT…
THEY ALL SEEMED PRETTY ONBOARD.

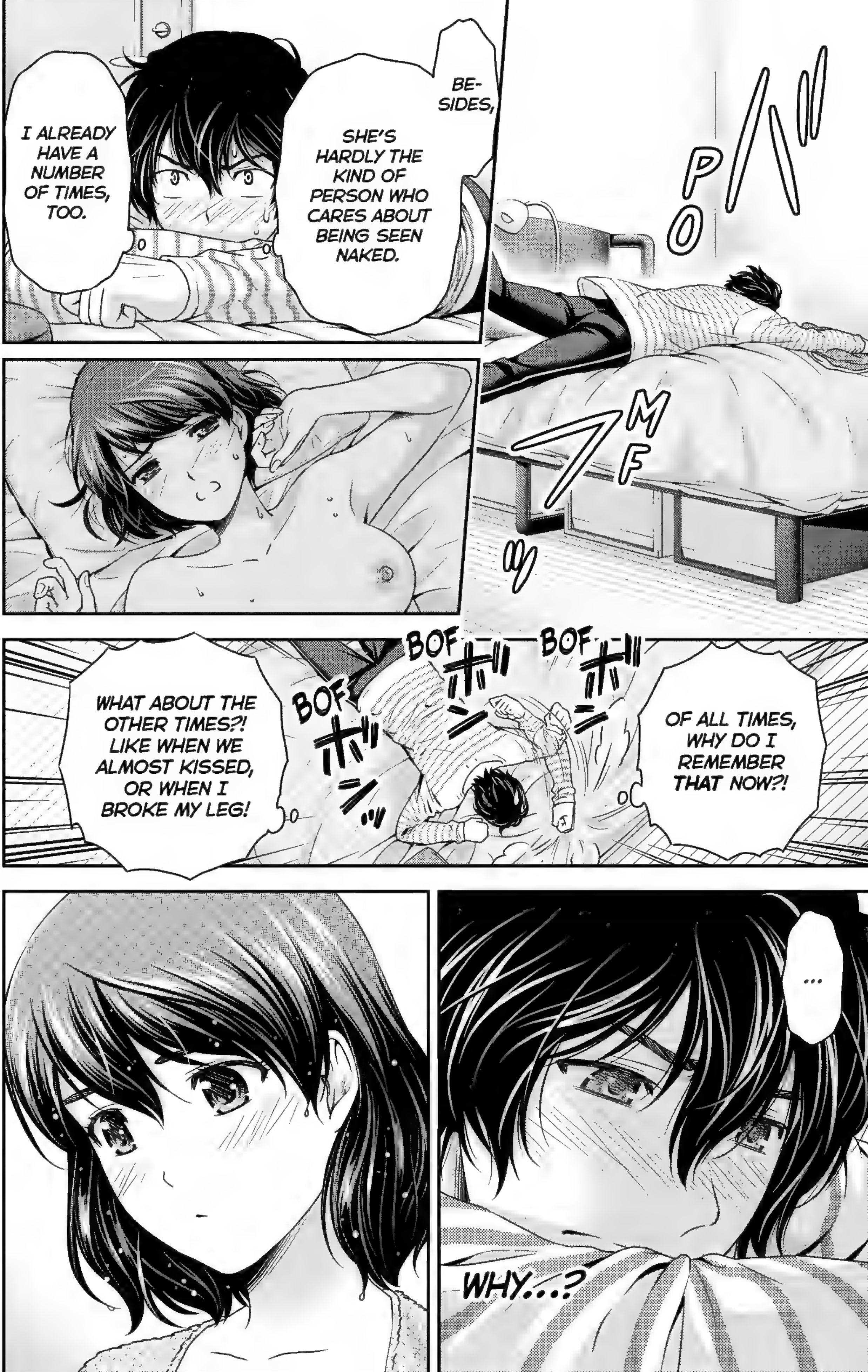

PERSONALLY, I WANT THE BOY WHO NAMED YOU HASUKAWA AS ONE OF HIS FAVORITE AUTHORS TO JOIN.
OH,
YOU MEAN THE MOODY TRYHARD CONSERVATIVE?
DON'T DISS HIM SO CASUALLY.
YOU'RE PRETTY MOODY, TOO.
STILL, NO NEED TO RUSH.
THERE COULD BE PEOPLE WHO JOIN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TERM LIKE I DID.
TRUE...
WHEN EXACTLY DID YOU JOIN AGAIN?
UHH...
IT WAS A WHILE AFTER I TRANSFERRED, SO AROUND THE BEGINNING OF SUMMER, I GUESS?
I SEE...
THEN IT WAS JUST AROUND THIS TIME LAST YEAR...
...WHEN WE...
...LOST OUR VIRGINITIES TOGETHER.
WELL, IT WAS MORE LIKE WE "GOT RID OF THEM" AT THE TIME.

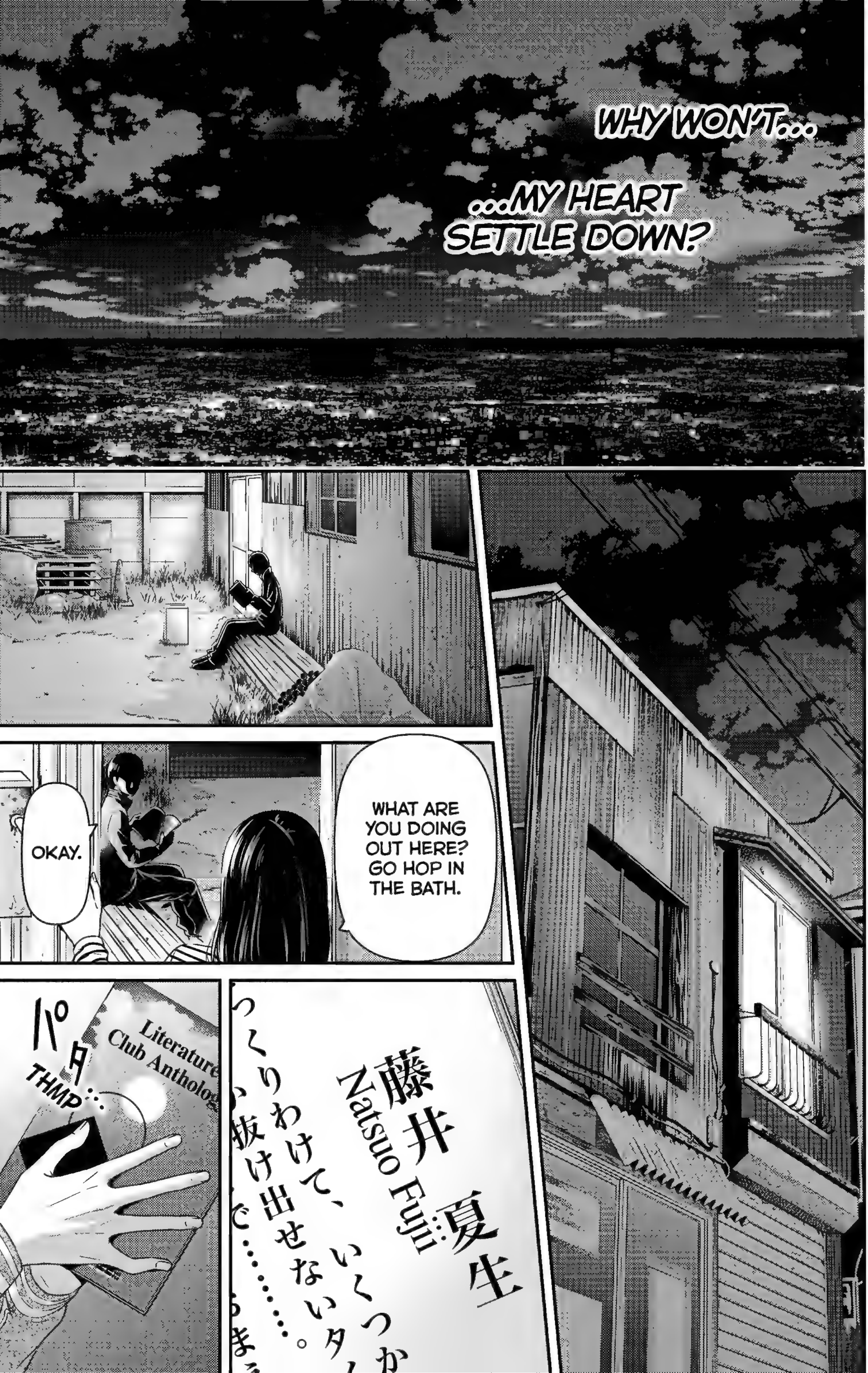

HM?
OH.
UHH.
NOTHING...
B-BY THE WAY,
YOUR HAIR'S GROWN A BIT.
ARE YOU GONNA GROW IT OUT AFTER ALL?
MMM. I'M STILL ON THE FENCE.
I GET IT CUT ONCE EVERY TWO MONTHS,
BUT I DIDN'T GO LAST MONTH.
MAYBE I'LL JUST LET IT GROW...
AND IF IT DOESN'T GET IN THE WAY, I'LL PROBABLY LEAVE IT.
OH.
MY SHOW'S STARTING.

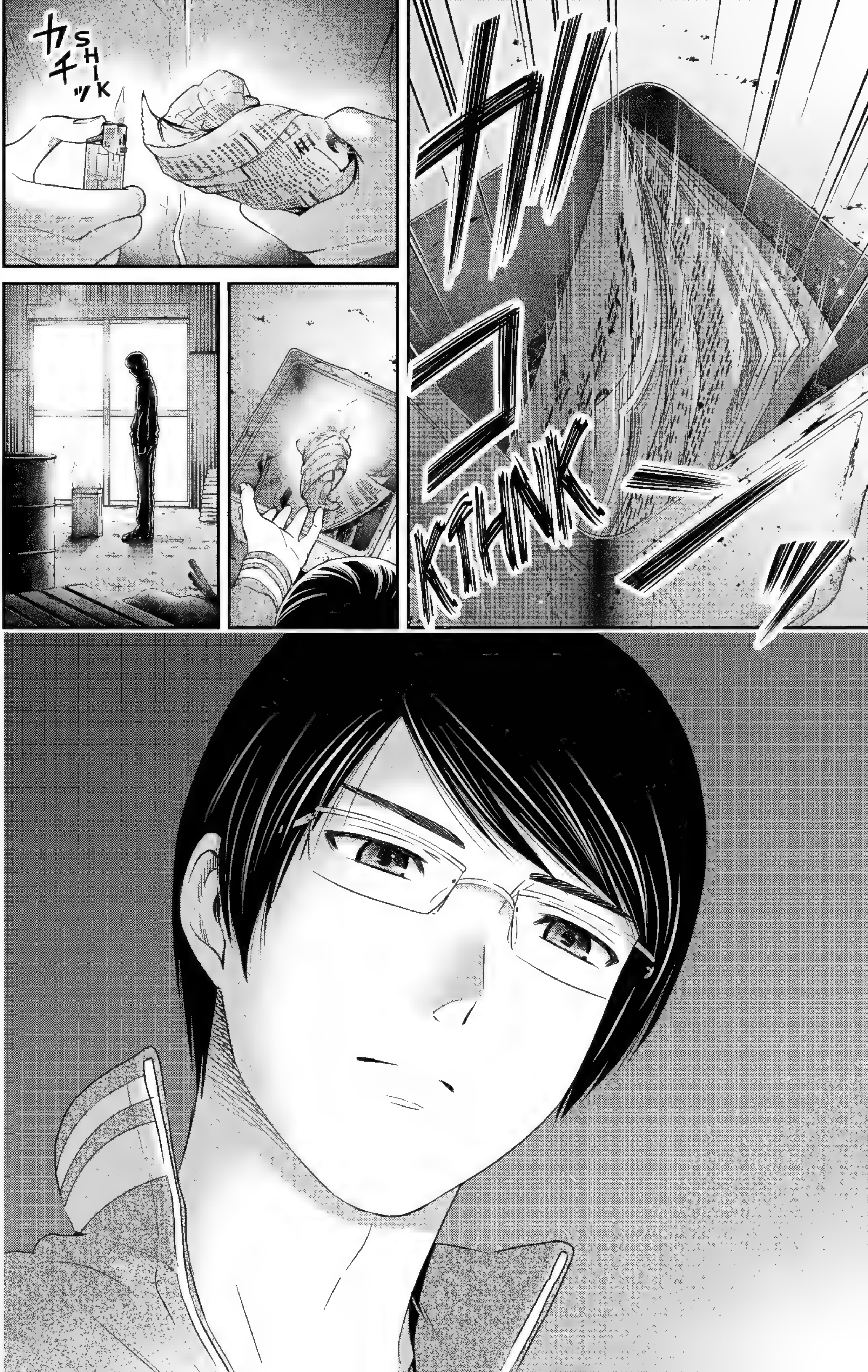

RUI HASN'T TRIED ANYTHING SINCE THAT NIGHT.
BUT THEN...
I WON'T...
HOLD BACK FOR HINA-NEE ANYMORE.
...
BUT I WONDER...
IF IT'D BE ANY DIFFERENT NOW.
...WHAT EXACTLY...
...DID SHE MEAN BY THAT?
WAIT...
WHAT DO I CARE?!
QUIT OVER-THINKING, IDIOT!


パチッ FLICK
I ALREADY
...
...HAVE HINA.
NO!
IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, HINA!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME!
じた FLAP
ばた FLAP
NOW AND FOREVER!
ばた FLAP
...
SIT
I SHOULD COOL OFF.
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M JUST GETTING BLINDSIDED BY EVERYTHING RUI SAYS AND DOES.
I HAVE TO HURRY AND BECOME A NOVELIST SO I CAN REUNITE WITH HINA ...
ガラッ SLIDE

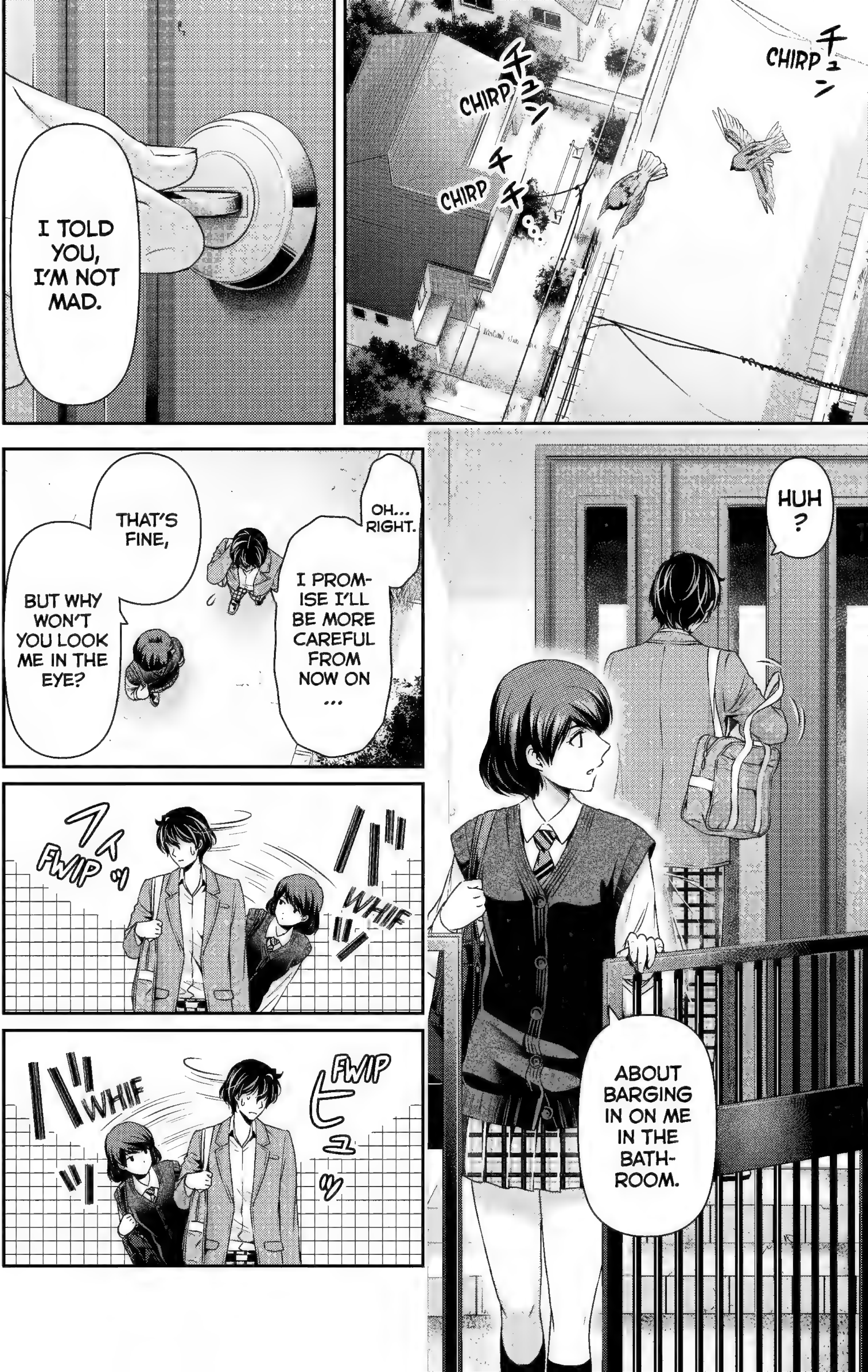

OH, SHIT!
ア
BAM
SORRY!
THMP
ダス
THMP
ダス
THMP
ダス
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?!
HOW LONG HAVE WE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER!
I SHOULD KNOW BETTER TO KNOCK BEFORE GOING IN THE BATHROOM!

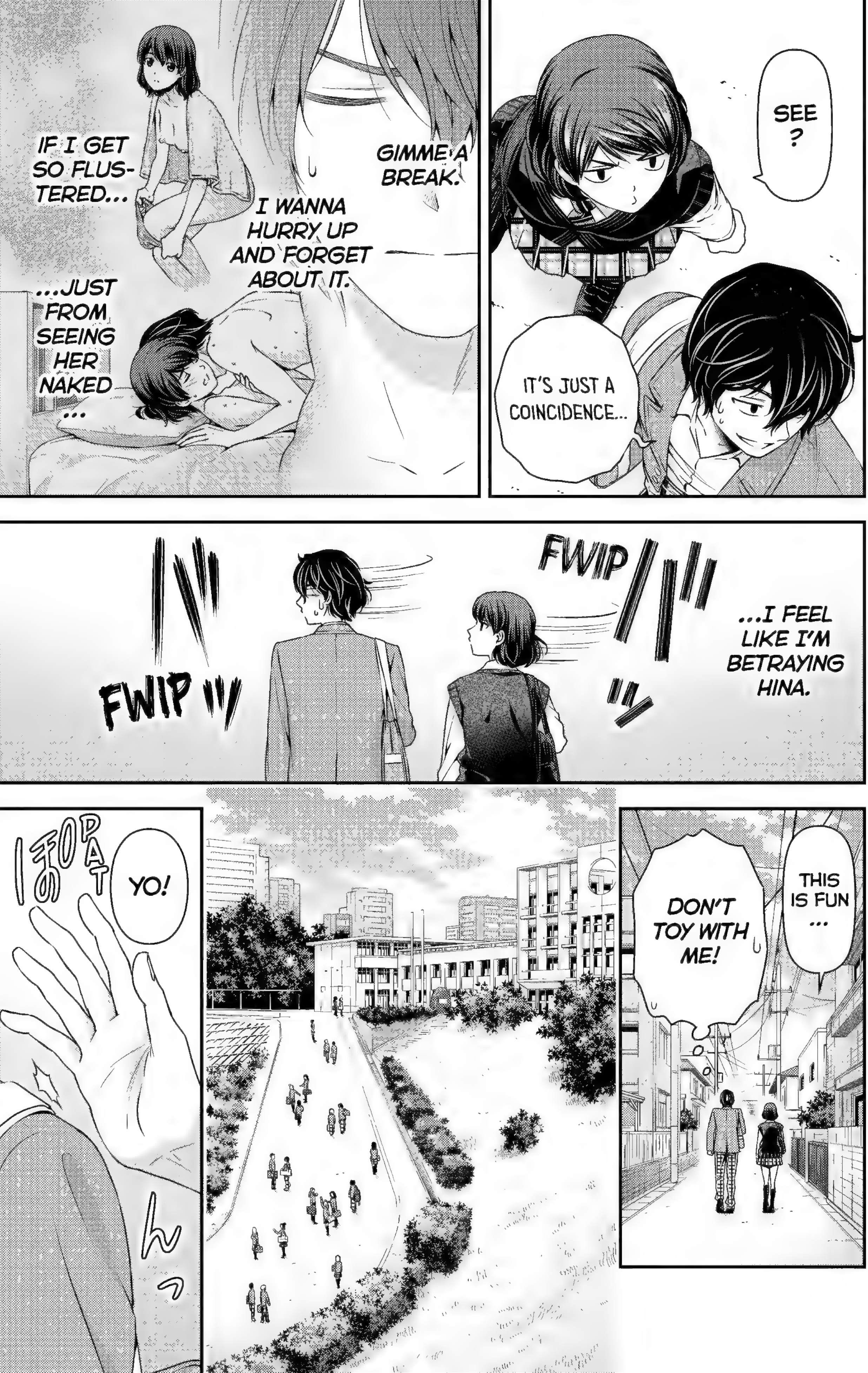

POMF
BE-SIDES,
SHE'S HARDLY THE KIND OF PERSON WHO CARES ABOUT BEING SEEN NAKED.
I ALREADY HAVE A NUMBER OF TIMES, TOO.
OF ALL TIMES, WHY DO I REMEMBER THAT NOW?!
BOF
BOF
BOF
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER TIMES?! LIKE WHEN WE ALMOST KISSED, OR WHEN I BROKE MY LEG!
...
WHY...?

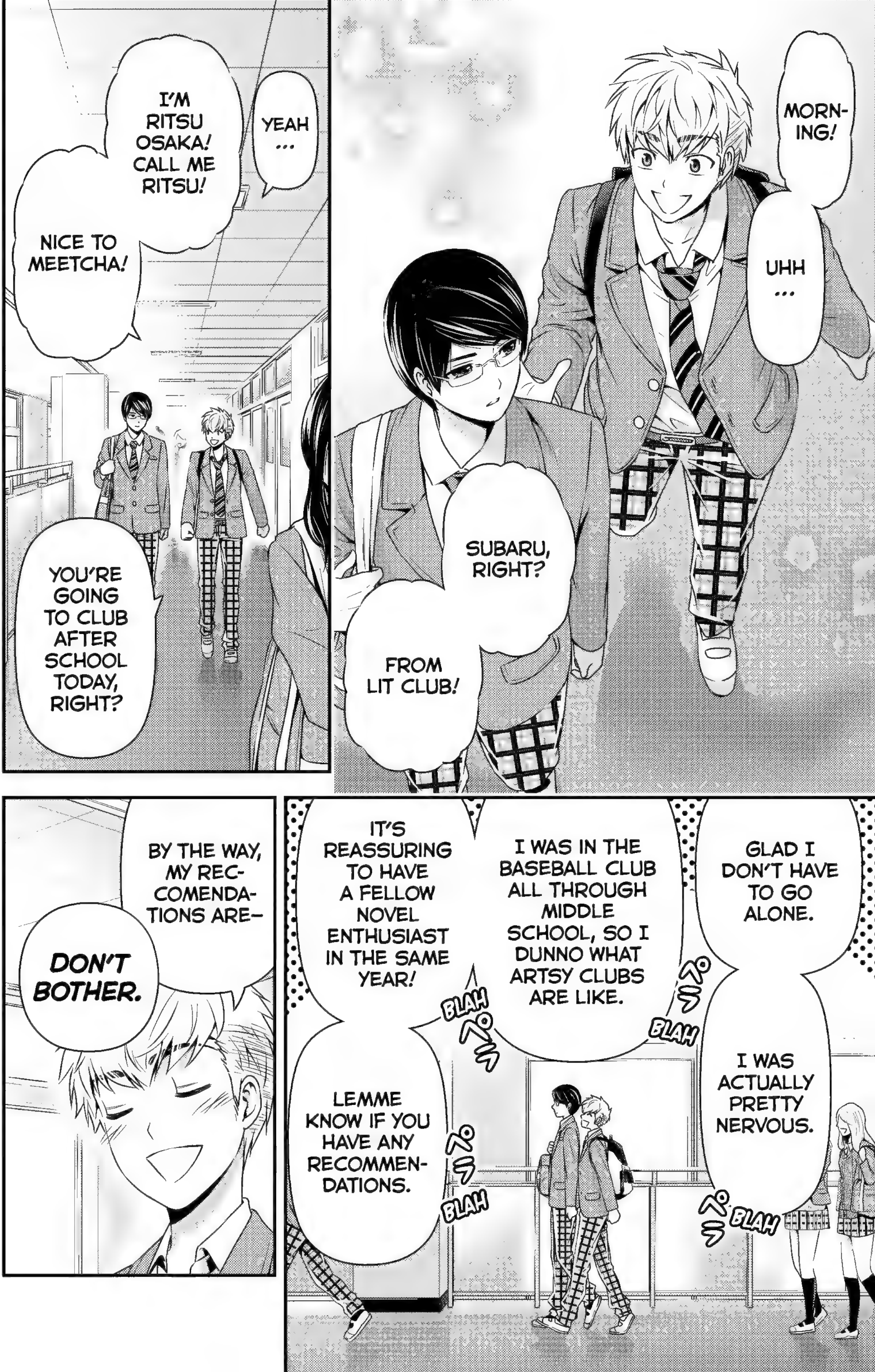

WHY WON'T...
...MY HEART SETTLE DOWN?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE? GO HOP IN THE BATH.
OKAY.
藤井 夏生
Natsuo Fujii
つくりわけて、いくつか
ら抜け出せないタ
で……。
パタ
THMP...
Literature Club Antholog

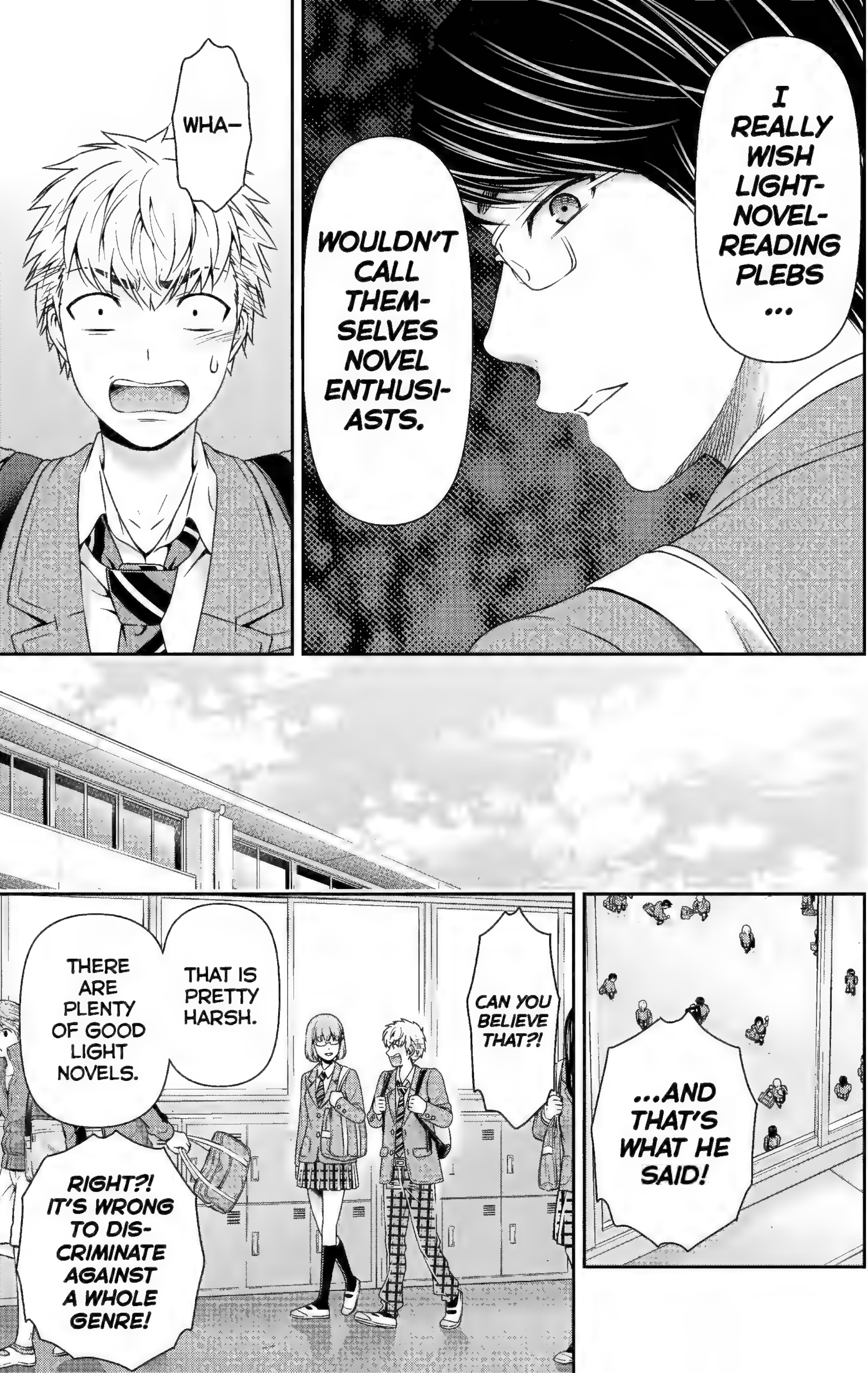

ガコーンッ
KTHNK
カチッ
SHIK

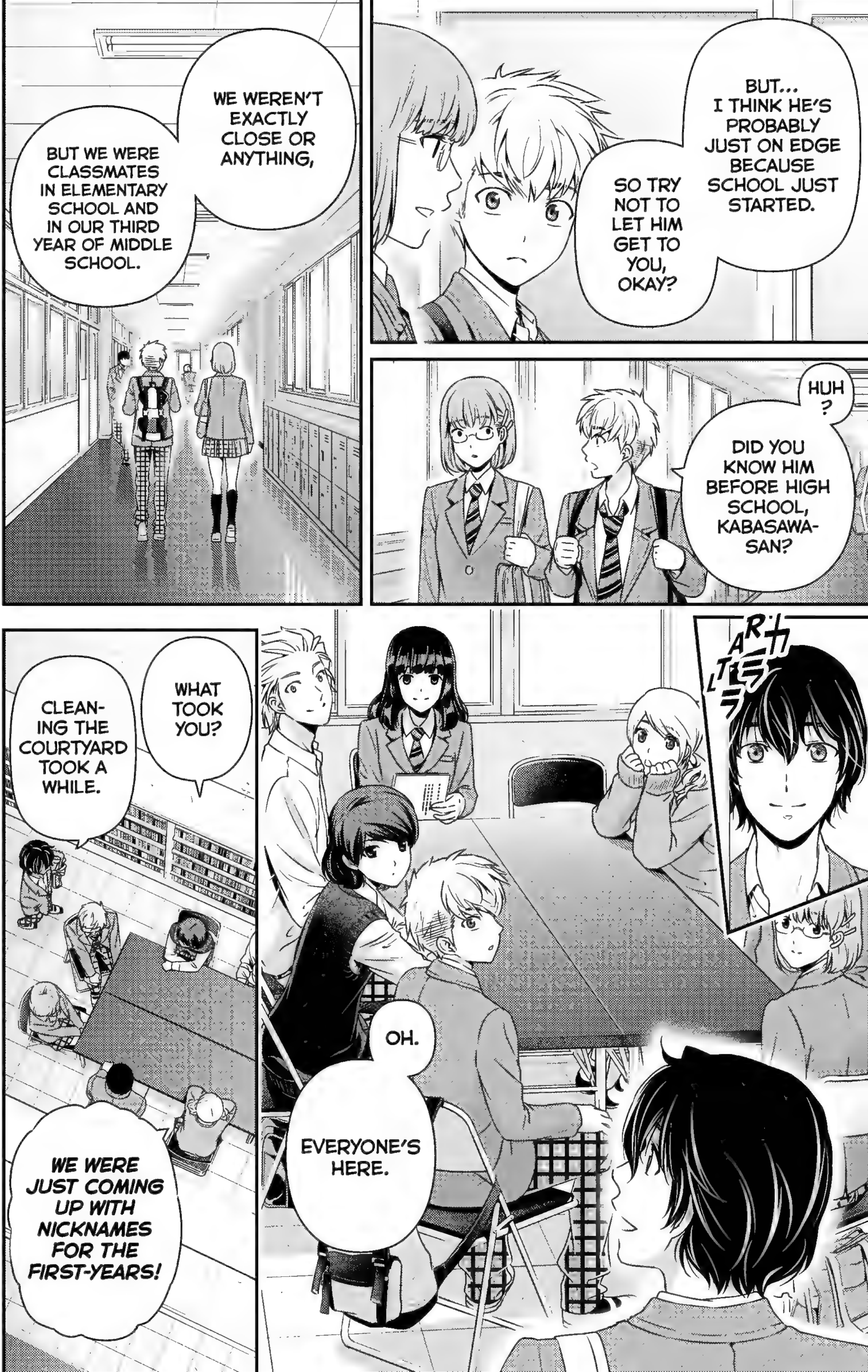
CHAPTER 74: HOSTILITY

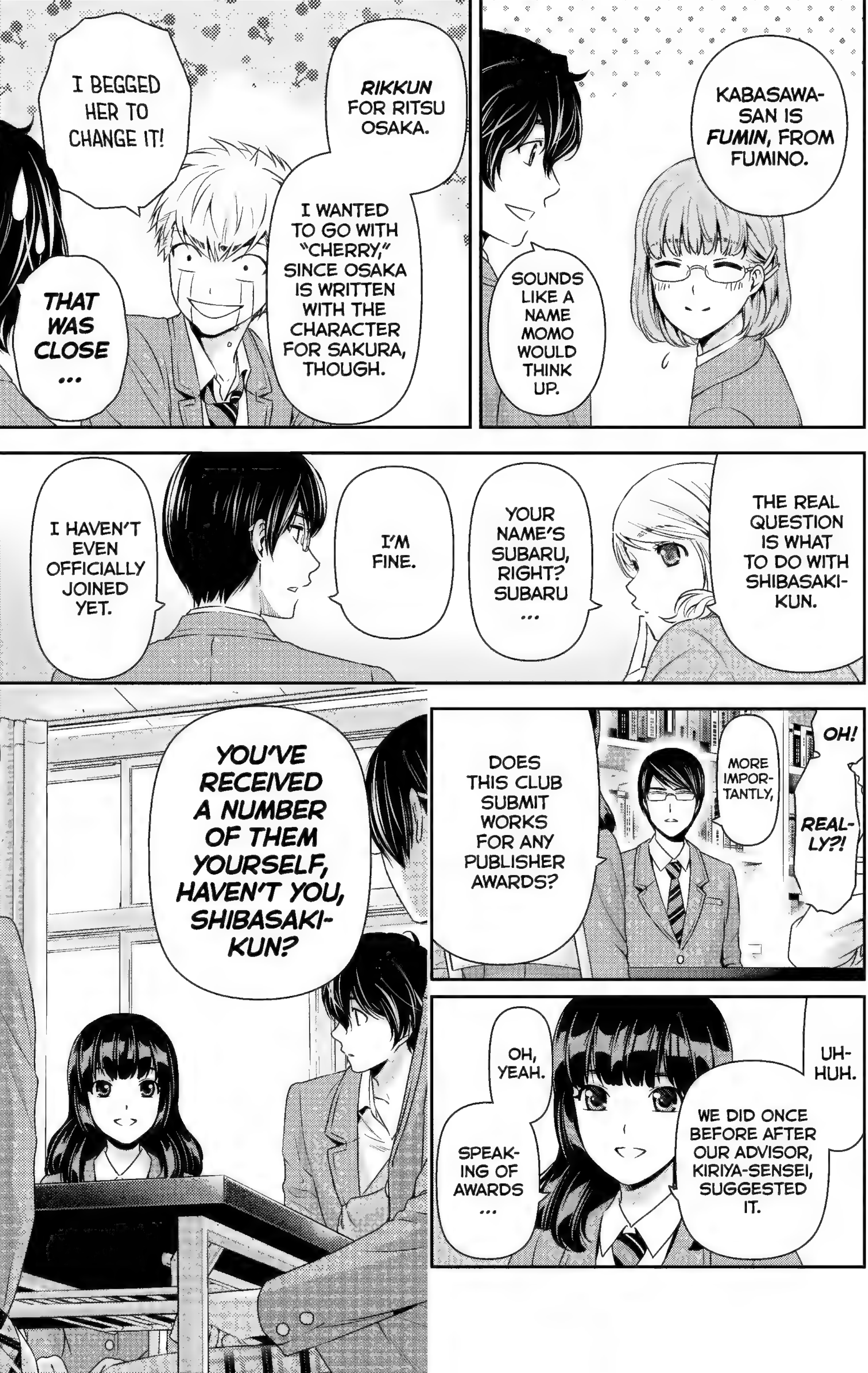

CHIRP チュン
CHIRP チュン
CHIRP チチ…
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT MAD.
HUH?
ABOUT BARGING IN ON ME IN THE BATHROOM.
OH... RIGHT.
I PROMISE I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON...
THAT'S FINE,
BUT WHY WON'T YOU LOOK ME IN THE EYE?
バッ WHIF
ヘィッ FWIP
ビュッ FWIP
バッ WHIF

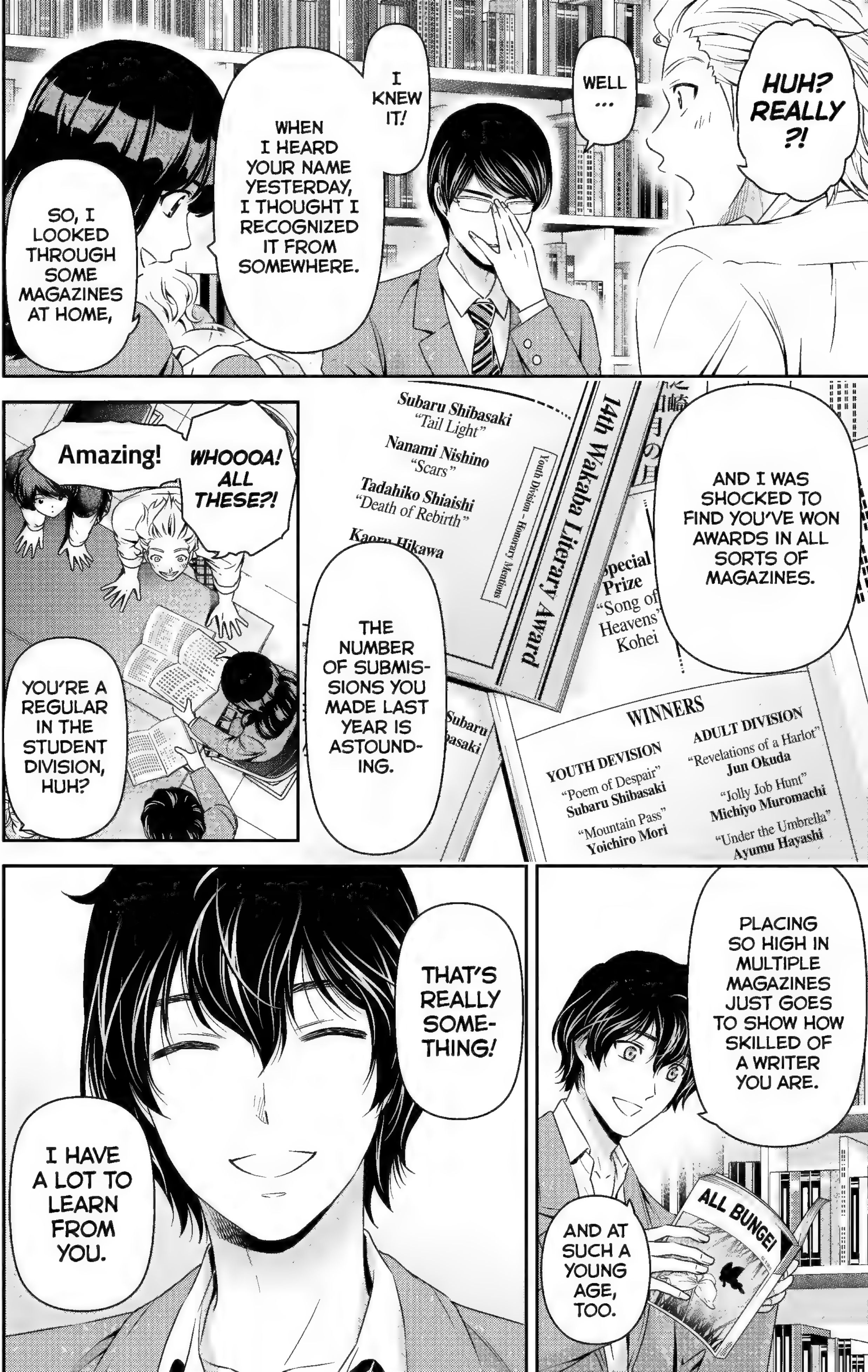

SEE?
IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE...
GIMME A BREAK.
I WANNA HURRY UP AND FORGET ABOUT IT.
IF I GET SO FLUSTERED...
...JUST FROM SEEING HER NAKED...
FWIP
...I FEEL LIKE I'M BETRAYING HINA.
FWIP
THIS IS FUN...
DON'T TOY WITH ME!
PAT
YO!
んっ

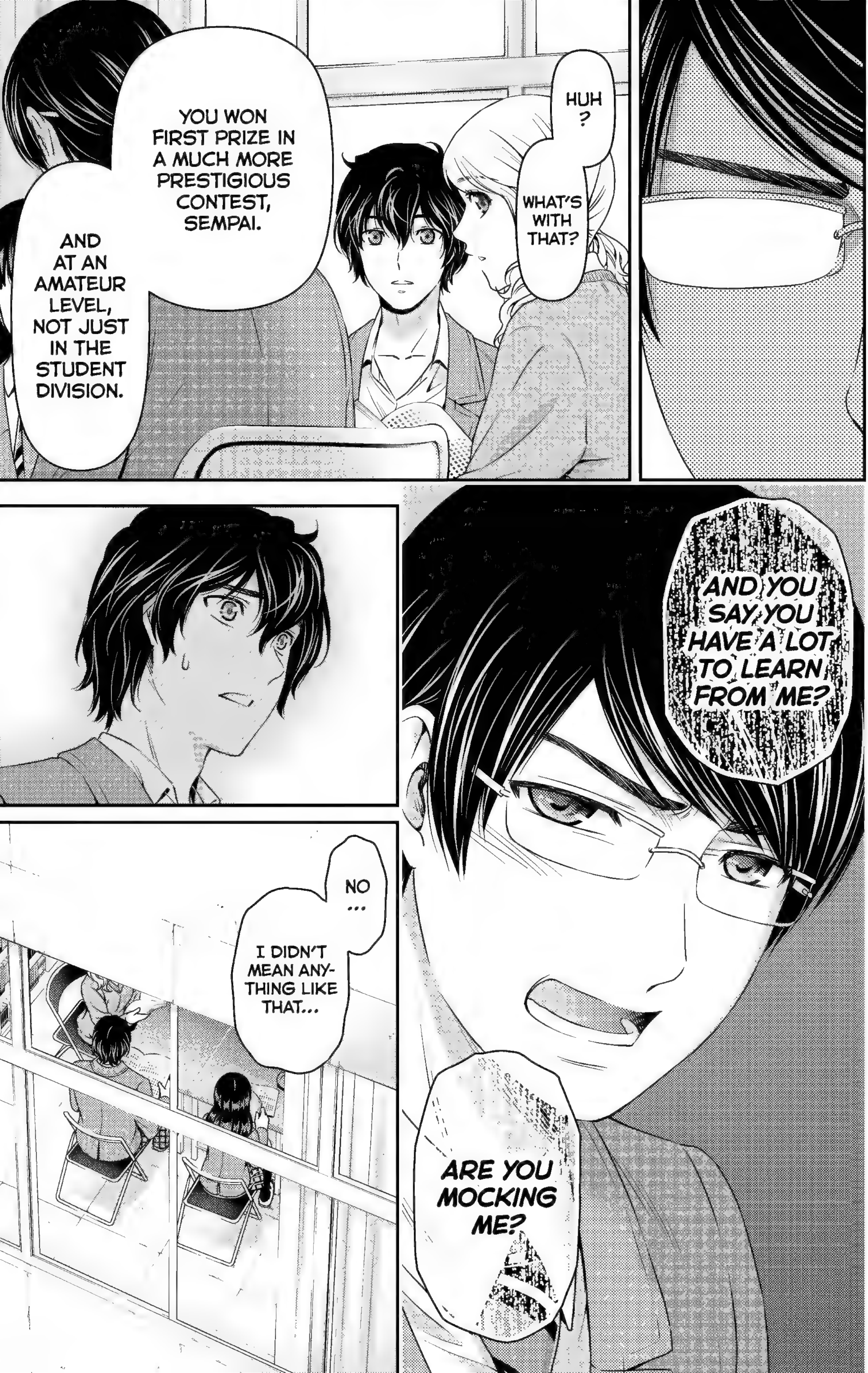

MORNING!
UHH...
SUBARU, RIGHT?
FROM LIT CLUB!
YEAH...
I'M RITSU OSAKA! CALL ME RITSU!
NICE TO MEETCHA!
YOU'RE GOING TO CLUB AFTER SCHOOL TODAY, RIGHT?
GLAD I DON'T HAVE TO GO ALONE.
I WAS ACTUALLY PRETTY NERVOUS.
I WAS IN THE BASEBALL CLUB ALL THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL, SO I DUNNO WHAT ARTSY CLUBS ARE LIKE.
IT'S REASSURING TO HAVE A FELLOW NOVEL ENTHUSIAST IN THE SAME YEAR!
LEMME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS.
ペラ BLAH
ペラ BLAH
ペラ BLAH
ペラ BLAH
BY THE WAY, MY RECCOMENDATIONS ARE—
DON'T BOTHER.

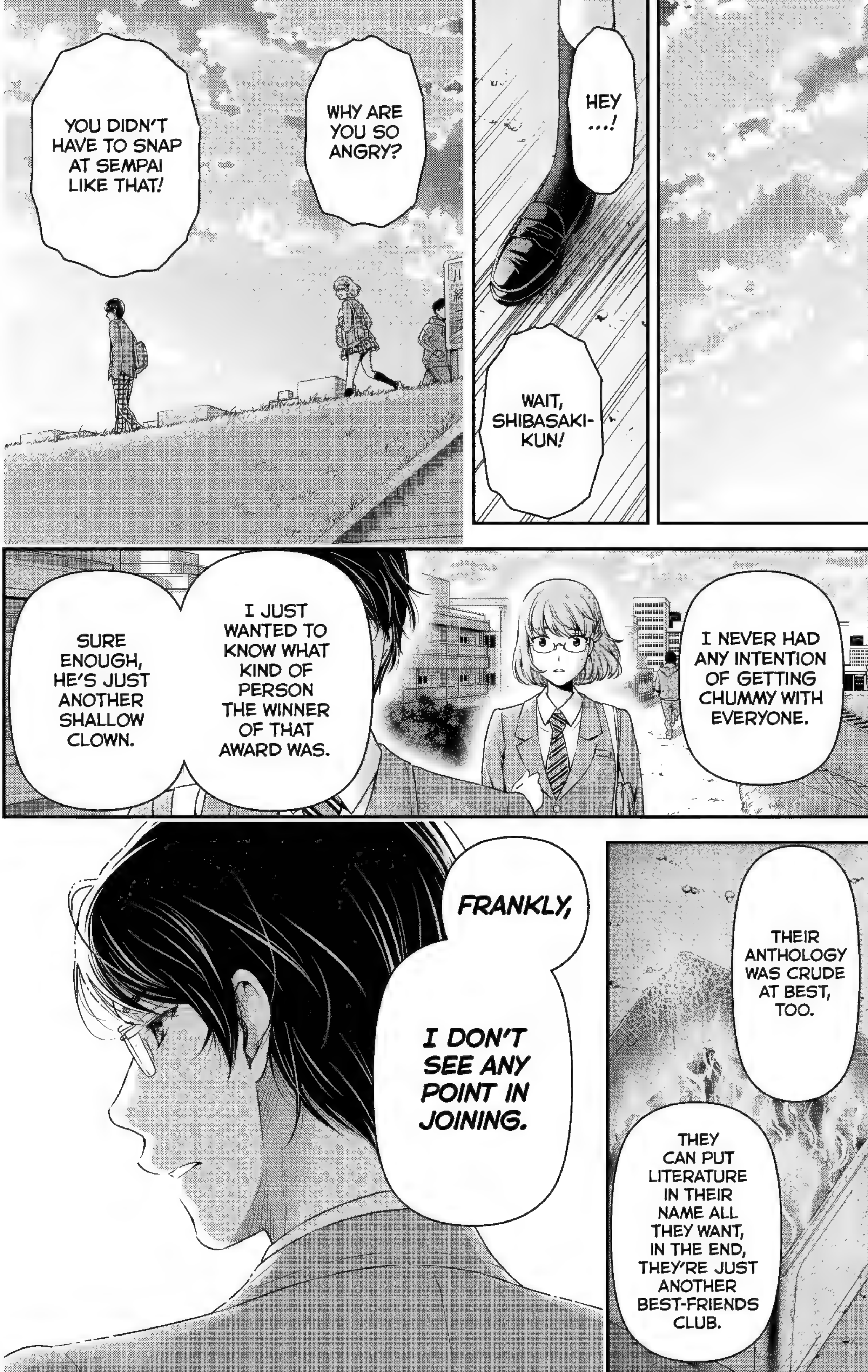

I REALLY WISH LIGHT-NOVEL-READING PLEBS...
WOULDN'T CALL THEMSELVES NOVEL ENTHUSIASTS.
WHA-
...AND THAT'S WHAT HE SAID!
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?!
THAT IS PRETTY HARSH.
THERE ARE PLENTY OF GOOD LIGHT NOVELS.
RIGHT?! IT'S WRONG TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST A WHOLE GENRE!

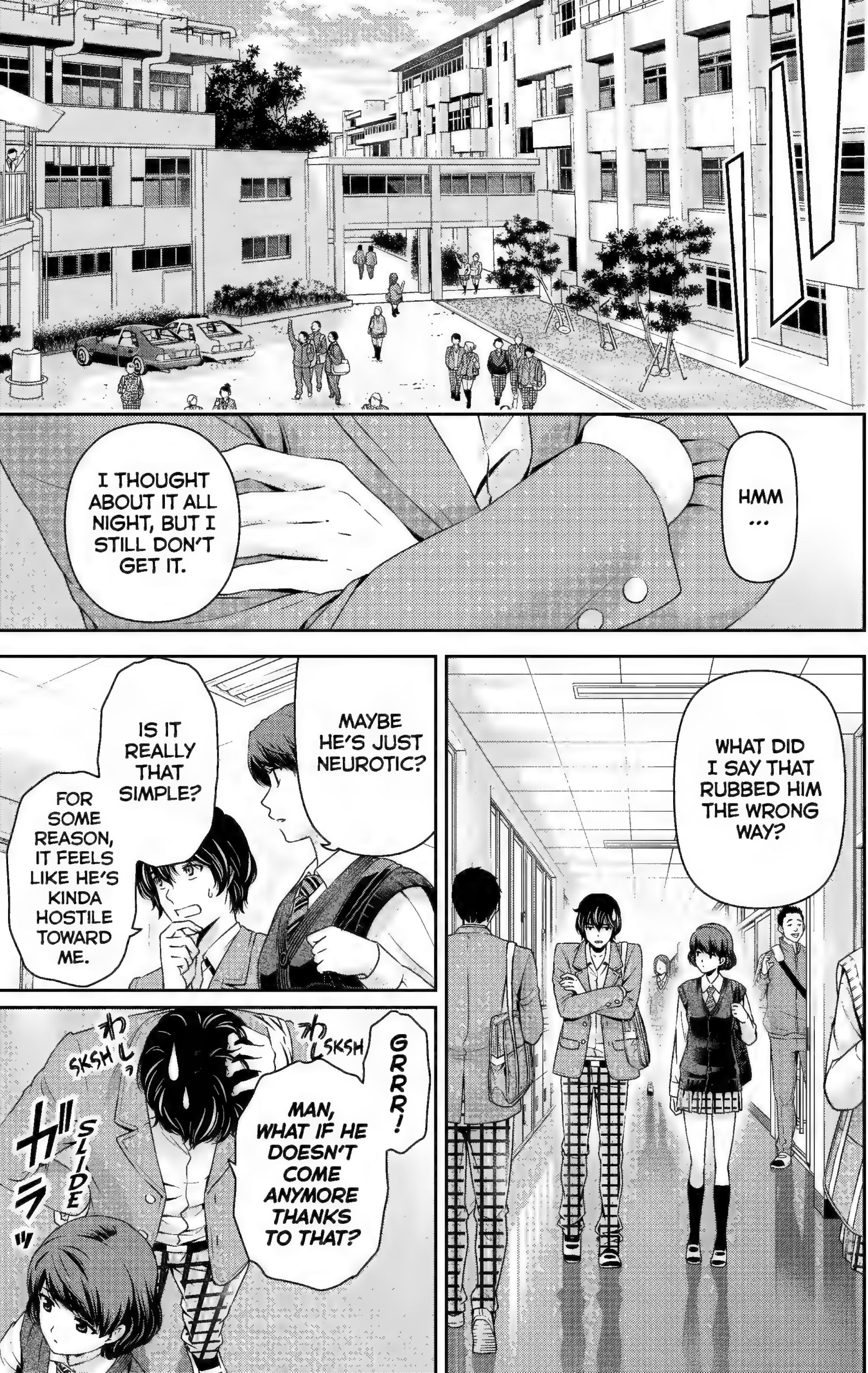

BUT... I THINK HE'S PROBABLY JUST ON EDGE BECAUSE SCHOOL JUST STARTED.
SO TRY NOT TO LET HIM GET TO YOU, OKAY?
HUH?
DID YOU KNOW HIM BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL, KABASAWA-SAN?
WE WEREN'T EXACTLY CLOSE OR ANYTHING,
BUT WE WERE CLASSMATES IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND IN OUR THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.
RATTLE
ガラ
OH.
EVERYONE'S HERE.
WHAT TOOK YOU?
CLEANING THE COURTYARD TOOK A WHILE.
WE WERE JUST COMING UP WITH NICKNAMES FOR THE FIRST-YEARS!

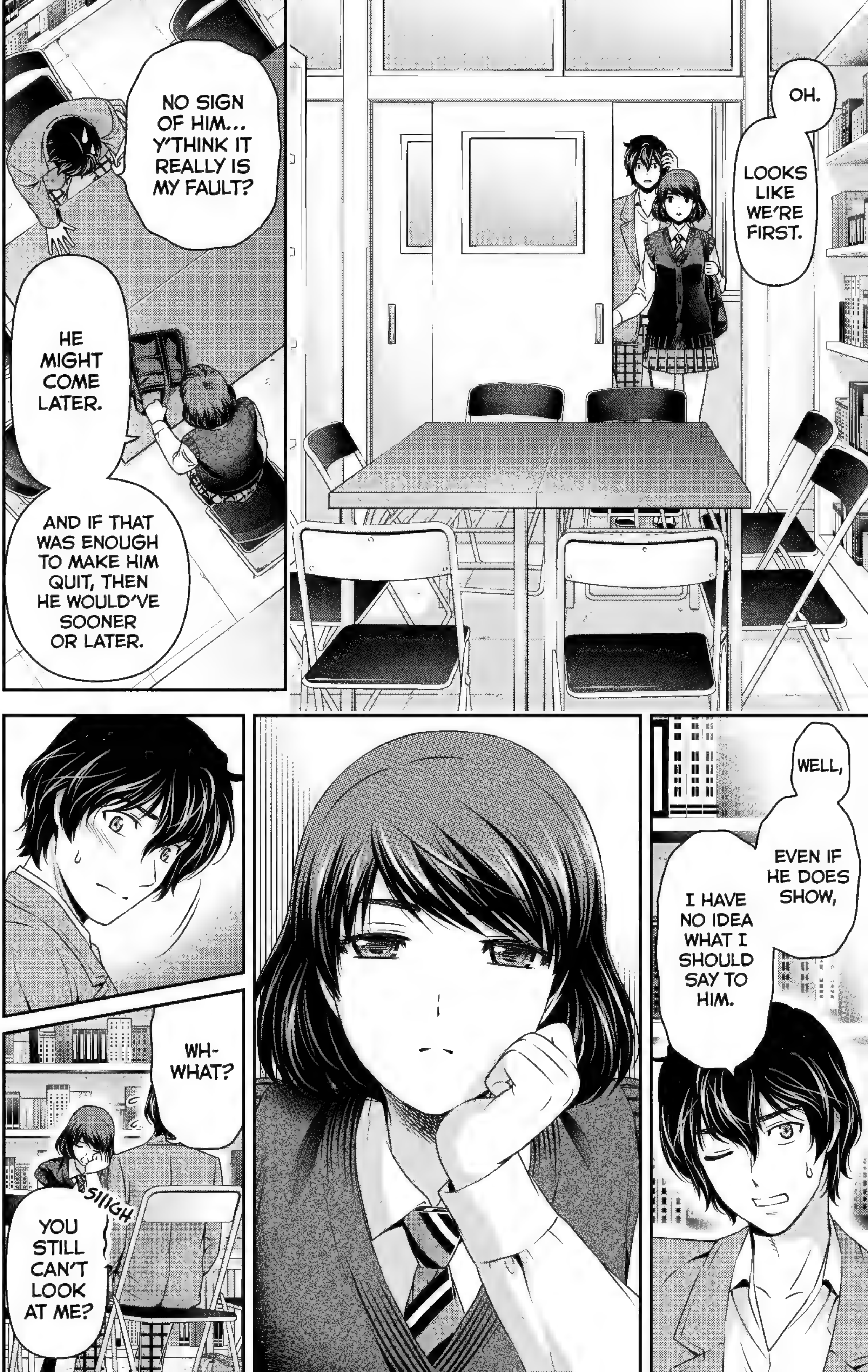

KABASAWA-SAN IS *FUMIN*, FROM FUMINO.
SOUNDS LIKE A NAME MOMO WOULD THINK UP.
RIKKUN FOR RITSU OSAKA.
I WANTED TO GO WITH "CHERRY," SINCE OSAKA IS WRITTEN WITH THE CHARACTER FOR SAKURA, THOUGH.
I BEGGED HER TO CHANGE IT!
THAT WAS CLOSE ...
THE REAL QUESTION IS WHAT TO DO WITH SHIBASAKI-KUN.
YOUR NAME'S SUBARU, RIGHT? SUBARU ...
I'M FINE.
I HAVEN'T EVEN OFFICIALLY JOINED YET.
OH!
REALLY?!
MORE IMPORTANTLY,
DOES THIS CLUB SUBMIT WORKS FOR ANY PUBLISHER AWARDS?
UH-HUH.
WE DID ONCE BEFORE AFTER OUR ADVISOR, KIRIYA-SENSEI, SUGGESTED IT.
OH, YEAH.
SPEAKING OF AWARDS ...
YOU'VE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF THEM YOURSELF, HAVEN'T YOU, SHIBASAKI-KUN?

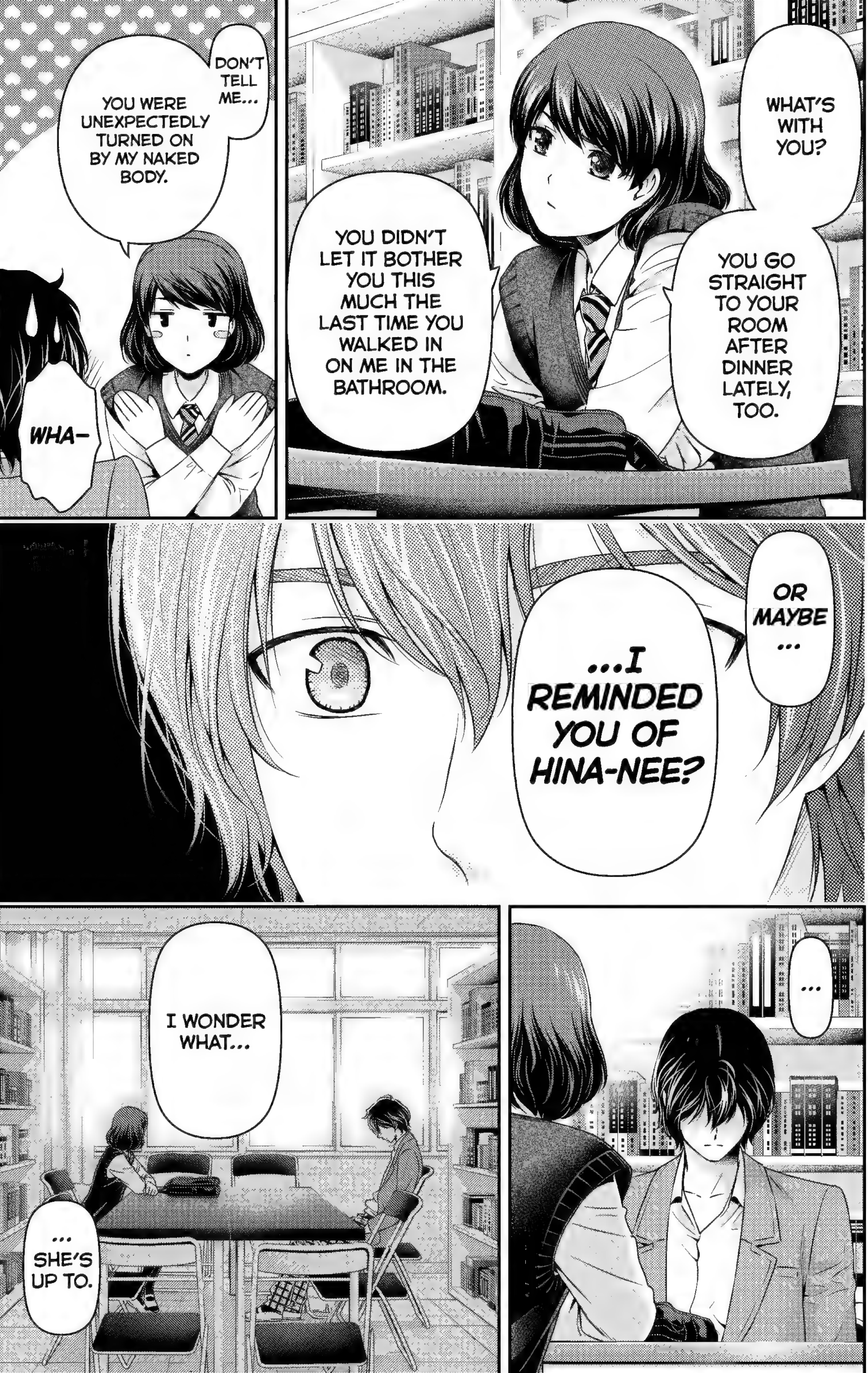

HUH? REALLY?!
WELL...
I KNEW IT!
WHEN I HEARD YOUR NAME YESTERDAY, I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED IT FROM SOMEWHERE.
SO, I LOOKED THROUGH SOME MAGAZINES AT HOME,
AND I WAS SHOCKED TO FIND YOU'VE WON AWARDS IN ALL SORTS OF MAGAZINES.
14th Wakaba Literary Award
Youth Division - Honorary Mentions
Subaru Shibasaki "Tail Light"
Nanami Nishino "Scars"
Tadahiko Shiaishi "Death of Rebirth"
Kaoru Hikawa
Special Prize "Song of Heavens" Kohei
Subaru Shibasaki
WINNERS
YOUTH DEVISION
"Poem of Despair" Subaru Shibasaki
"Mountain Pass" Yoichiro Mori
ADULT DIVISION
"Revelations of a Harlot" Jun Okuda
"Jolly Job Hunt" Michiyo Muromachi
"Under the Umbrella" Ayumu Hayashi
THE NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS YOU MADE LAST YEAR IS ASTOUNDING.
WHOOOA! ALL THESE?!
Amazing!
YOU'RE A REGULAR IN THE STUDENT DIVISION, HUH?
PLACING SO HIGH IN MULTIPLE MAGAZINES JUST GOES TO SHOW HOW SKILLED OF A WRITER YOU ARE.
AND AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE, TOO.
ALL BUNGEI
THAT'S REALLY SOMETHING!
I HAVE A LOT TO LEARN FROM YOU.

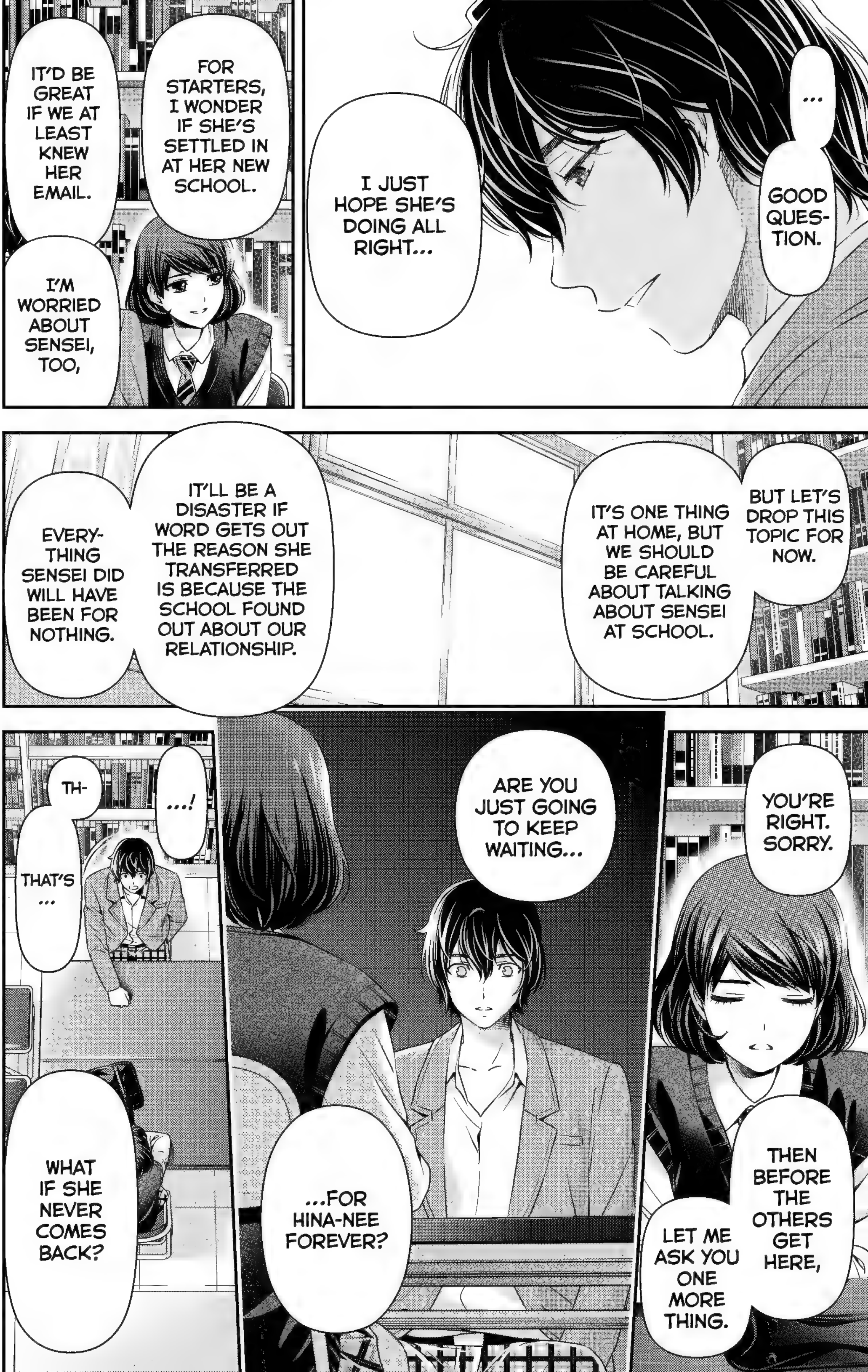

HUH?
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
YOU WON FIRST PRIZE IN A MUCH MORE PRESTIGIOUS CONTEST, SEMPAI.
AND AT AN AMATEUR LEVEL, NOT JUST IN THE STUDENT DIVISION.
AND YOU SAY YOU HAVE A LOT TO LEARN FROM ME?
ARE YOU MOCKING ME?
NO...
I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING LIKE THAT...

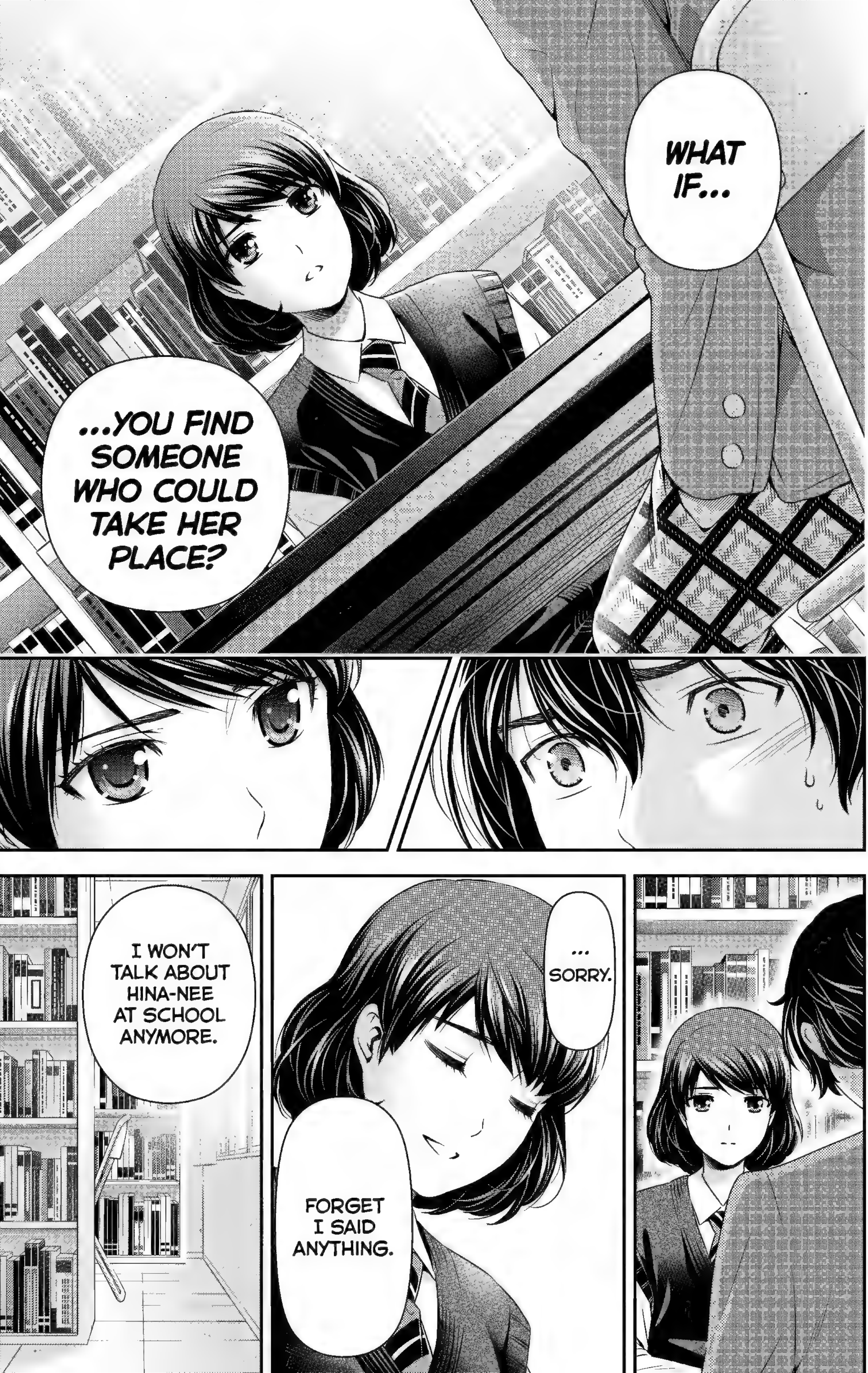

HEY ...!
WAIT, SHIBASAKI-KUN!
WHY ARE YOU SO ANGRY?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SNAP AT SEMPAI LIKE THAT!
I NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION OF GETTING CHUMMY WITH EVERYONE.
I JUST WANTED TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF PERSON THE WINNER OF THAT AWARD WAS.
SURE ENOUGH, HE'S JUST ANOTHER SHALLOW CLOWN.
THEIR ANTHOLOGY WAS CRUDE AT BEST, TOO.
THEY CAN PUT LITERATURE IN THEIR NAME ALL THEY WANT, IN THE END, THEY'RE JUST ANOTHER BEST-FRIENDS CLUB.
FRANKLY, I DON'T SEE ANY POINT IN JOINING.

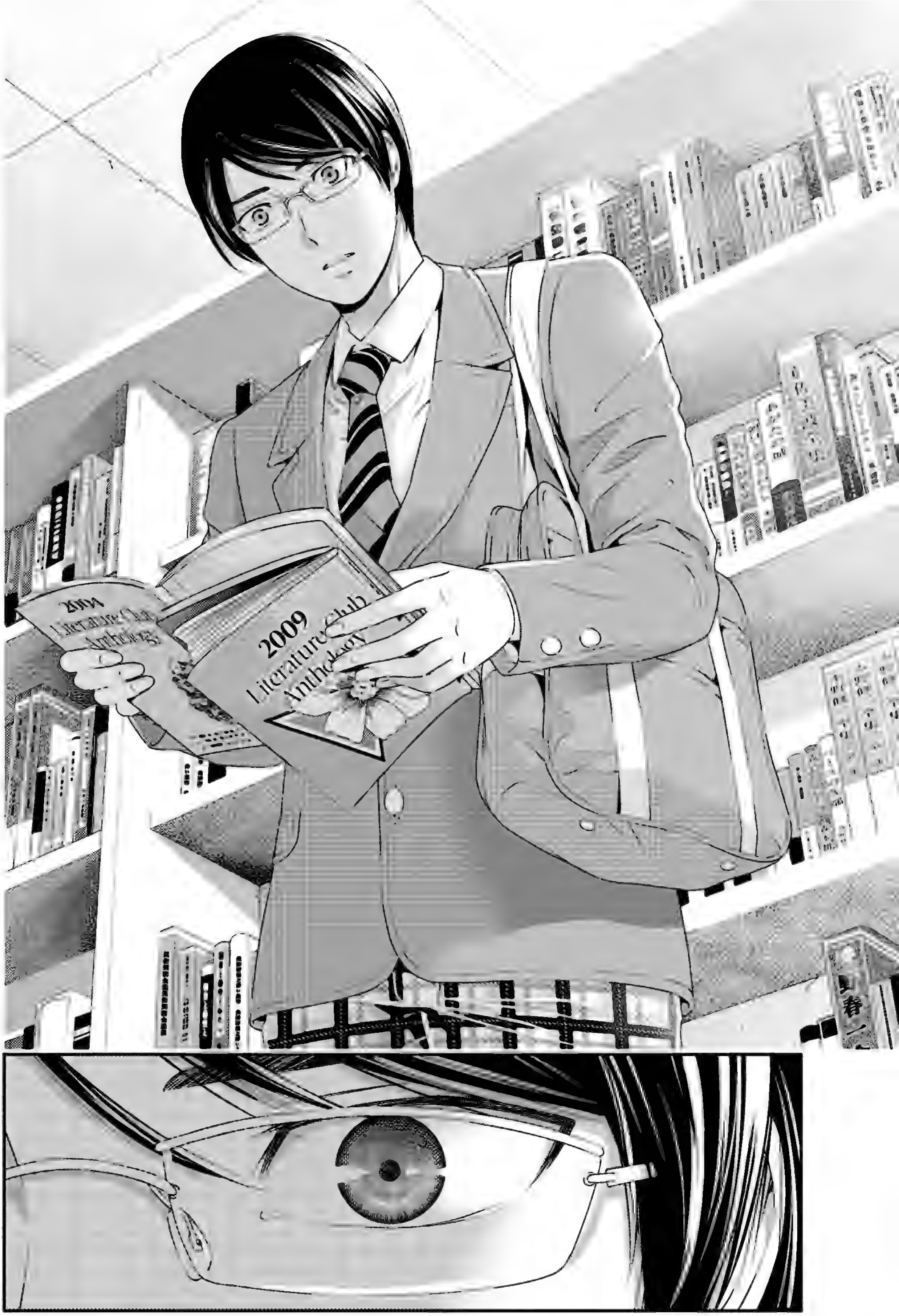

HMM...
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT ALL NIGHT, BUT I STILL DON'T GET IT.
WHAT DID I SAY THAT RUBBED HIM THE WRONG WAY?
MAYBE HE'S JUST NEUROTIC?
IS IT REALLY THAT SIMPLE?
FOR SOME REASON, IT FEELS LIKE HE'S KINDA HOSTILE TOWARD ME.
GRRR!
わしわし SKSH SKSH
MAN, WHAT IF HE DOESN'T COME ANYMORE THANKS TO THAT?
ガラッ SLIDE

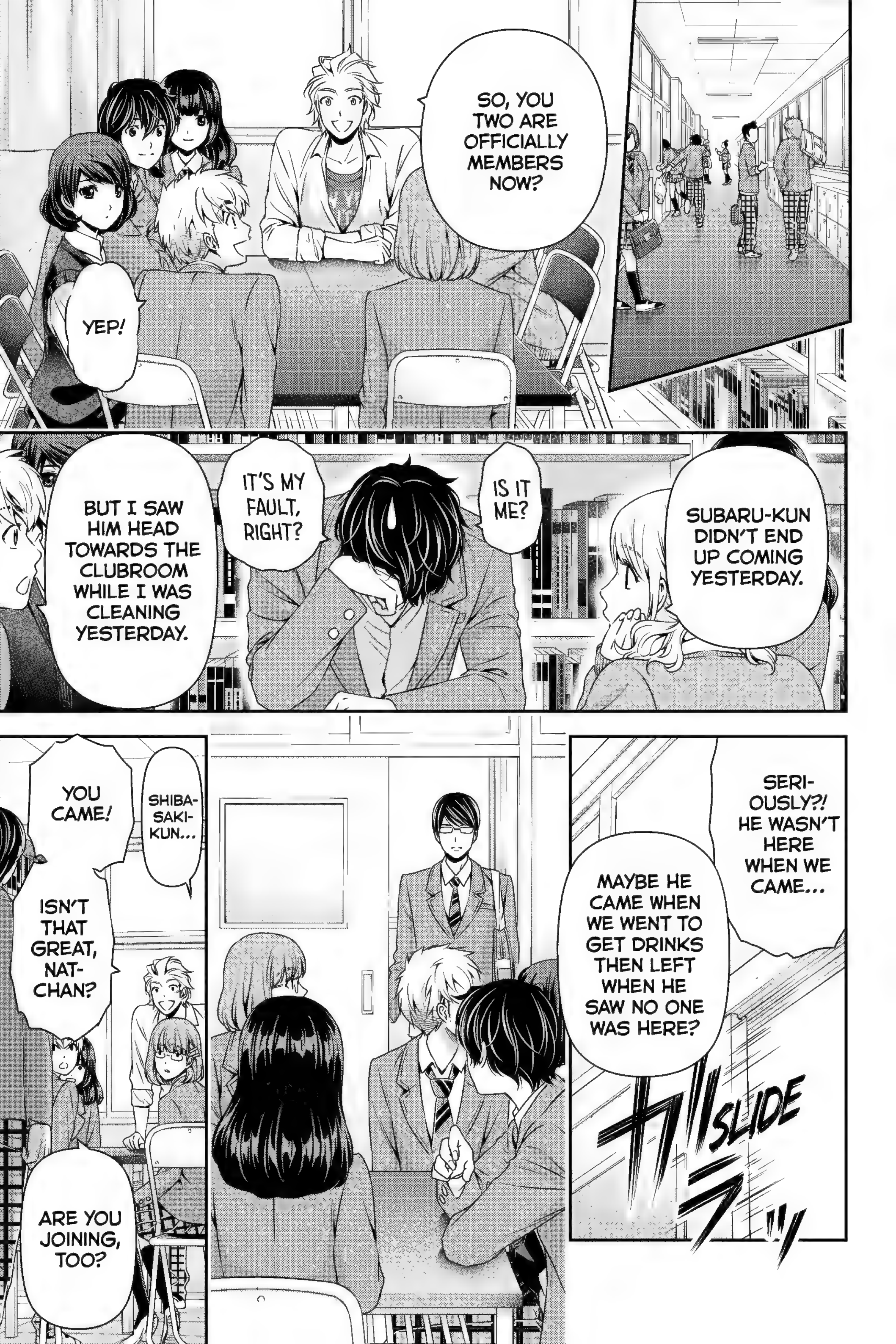

OH.
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE FIRST.
NO SIGN OF HIM... Y'THINK IT REALLY IS MY FAULT?
HE MIGHT COME LATER.
AND IF THAT WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM QUIT, THEN HE WOULD'VE SOONER OR LATER.
WELL,
EVEN IF HE DOES SHOW,
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I SHOULD SAY TO HIM.
WH- WHAT?
SIIIGH
YOU STILL CAN'T LOOK AT ME?

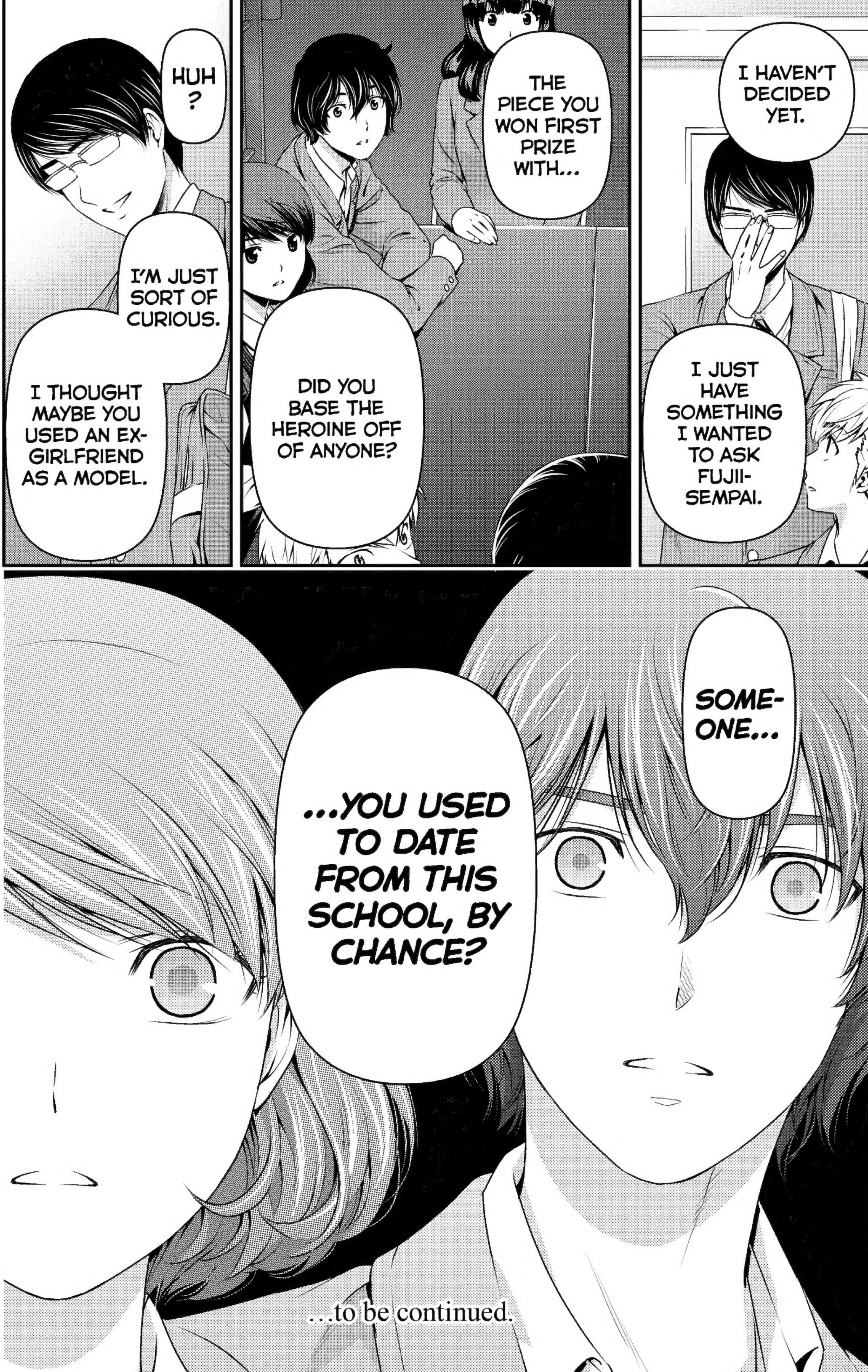

WHAT'S WITH YOU?
YOU GO STRAIGHT TO YOUR ROOM AFTER DINNER LATELY, TOO.
YOU DIDN'T LET IT BOTHER YOU THIS MUCH THE LAST TIME YOU WALKED IN ON ME IN THE BATHROOM.
DON'T TELL ME...
YOU WERE UNEXPECTEDLY TURNED ON BY MY NAKED BODY.
WHA-
OR MAYBE...
...I REMINDED YOU OF HINA-NEE?
...
I WONDER WHAT...
...SHE'S UP TO.


...
GOOD QUESTION.
I JUST HOPE SHE'S DOING ALL RIGHT...
FOR STARTERS, I WONDER IF SHE'S SETTLED IN AT HER NEW SCHOOL.
IT'D BE GREAT IF WE AT LEAST KNEW HER EMAIL.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT SENSEI, TOO,
BUT LET'S DROP THIS TOPIC FOR NOW.
IT'S ONE THING AT HOME, BUT WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL ABOUT TALKING ABOUT SENSEI AT SCHOOL.
IT'LL BE A DISASTER IF WORD GETS OUT THE REASON SHE TRANSFERRED IS BECAUSE THE SCHOOL FOUND OUT ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP.
EVERYTHING SENSEI DID WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING.
YOU'RE RIGHT. SORRY.
THEN BEFORE THE OTHERS GET HERE,
LET ME ASK YOU ONE MORE THING.
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO KEEP WAITING...
...FOR HINA-NEE FOREVER?
...!
TH-
THAT'S...
WHAT IF SHE NEVER COMES BACK?


WHAT IF...
...YOU FIND SOMEONE WHO COULD TAKE HER PLACE?
... SORRY.
I WON'T TALK ABOUT HINA-NEE AT SCHOOL ANYMORE.
FORGET I SAID ANYTHING.


2009
Literature Club
Anthology


SO, YOU TWO ARE OFFICIALLY MEMBERS NOW?
YEP!
SUBARU-KUN DIDN'T END UP COMING YESTERDAY.
IS IT ME?
IT'S MY FAULT, RIGHT?
BUT I SAW HIM HEAD TOWARDS THE CLUBROOM WHILE I WAS CLEANING YESTERDAY.
SERIOUSLY?! HE WASN'T HERE WHEN WE CAME...
MAYBE HE CAME WHEN WE WENT TO GET DRINKS THEN LEFT WHEN HE SAW NO ONE WAS HERE?
ガラッ SLIDE
SHIBASAKI-KUN...
YOU CAME!
ISN'T THAT GREAT, NAT-CHAN?
ARE YOU JOINING, TOO?


I HAVEN'T DECIDED YET.
I JUST HAVE SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK FUJII-SEMPAI.
THE PIECE YOU WON FIRST PRIZE WITH...
DID YOU BASE THE HEROINE OFF OF ANYONE?
HUH?
I'M JUST SORT OF CURIOUS.
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU USED AN EX-GIRLFRIEND AS A MODEL.
SOME-ONE...
...YOU USED TO DATE FROM THIS SCHOOL, BY CHANCE?

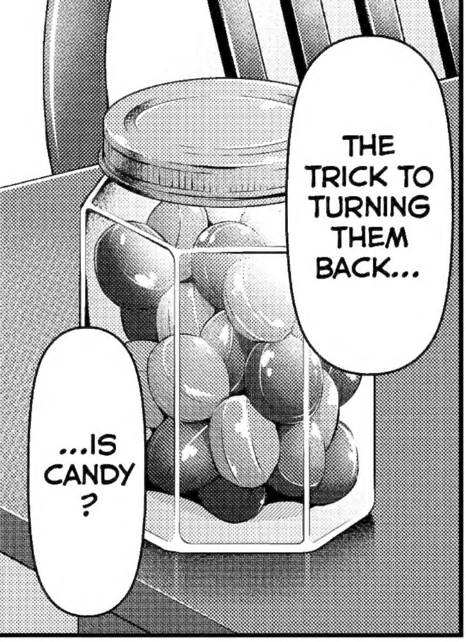
…to be continued.

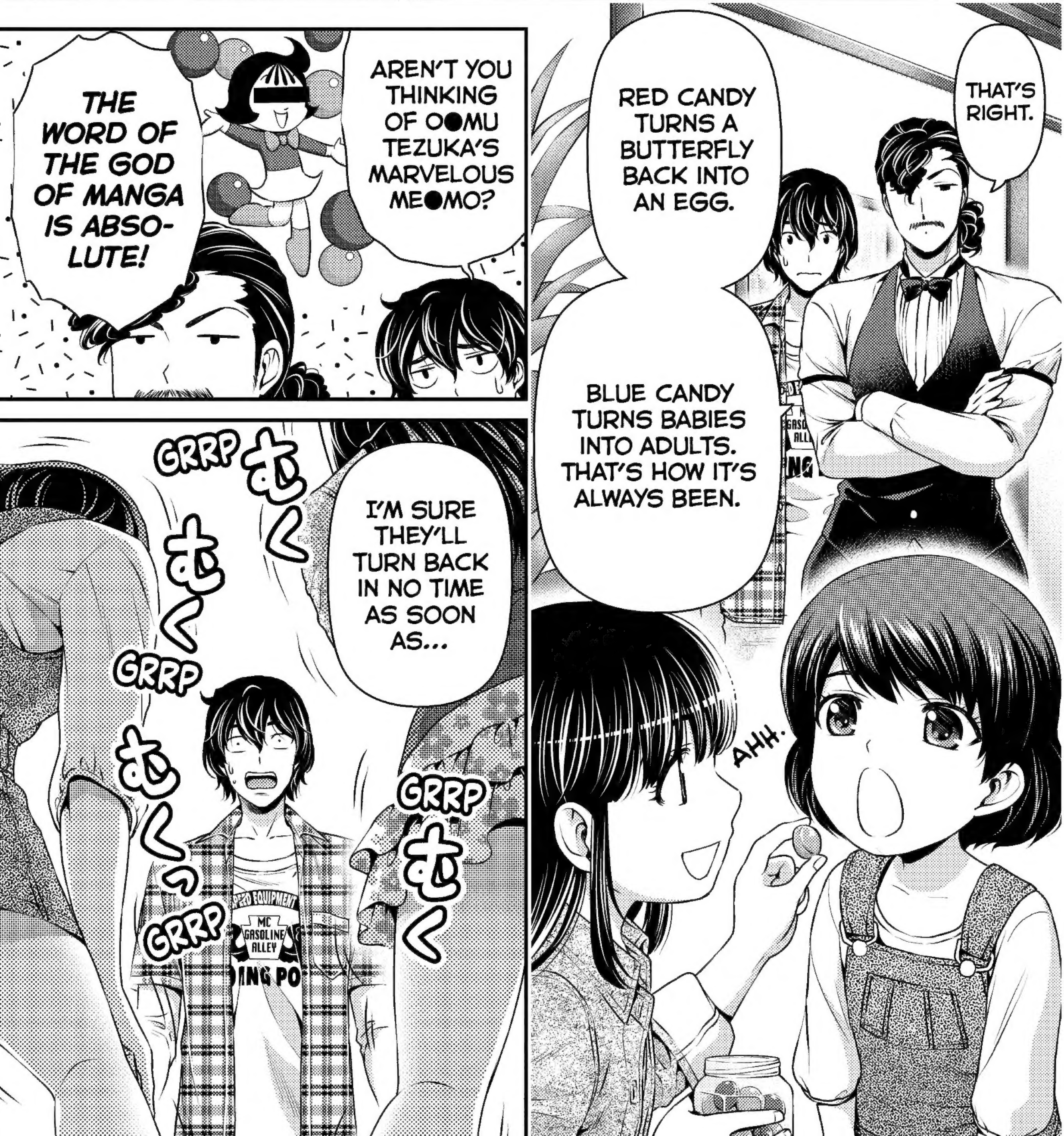
EXTRA MANGA

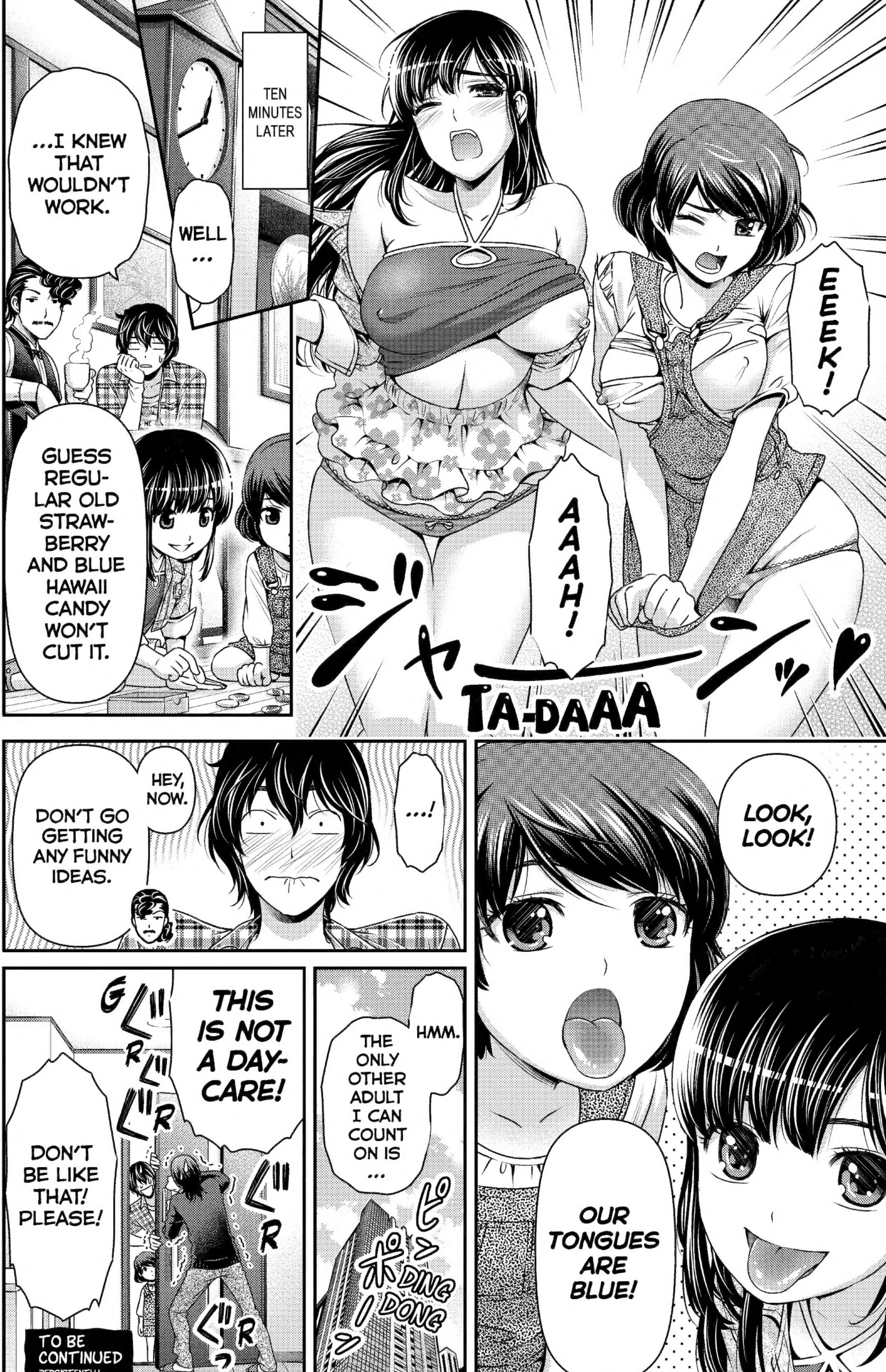
SWEET HOME MAGIC

THE STORY SO FAR

HINA AND RUI HAVE REVERTED TO CHILDREN AFTER TAKING A STRANGE DRUG. IN A BIND, NATSUO ASKS L'AMANT'S OWNER FOR HELP...


THE TRICK TO TURNING THEM BACK...
...IS CANDY?


THAT'S RIGHT.
RED CANDY TURNS A BUTTERFLY BACK INTO AN EGG.
BLUE CANDY TURNS BABIES INTO ADULTS. THAT'S HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN.
AHH.
AREN'T YOU THINKING OF O●MU TEZUKA'S MARVELOUS ME●MO?
THE WORD OF THE GOD OF MANGA IS ABSOLUTE!
I'M SURE THEY'LL TURN BACK IN NO TIME AS SOON AS...
GRRP むく
GRRP むく
GRRP むくっ
GRRP むく
GASOLINE ALLEY


EEEEK!
AAAAH!
ジャーーーンッ
TA-DAAA
TEN MINUTES LATER
WELL ...
...I KNEW THAT WOULDN'T WORK.
GUESS REGULAR OLD STRAWBERRY AND BLUE HAWAII CANDY WON'T CUT IT.
LOOK, LOOK!
OUR TONGUES ARE BLUE!
...!
HEY, NOW.
DON'T GO GETTING ANY FUNNY IDEAS.
HMM.
THE ONLY OTHER ADULT I CAN COUNT ON IS ...
ピンポーン
DING DONG
THIS IS NOT A DAY-CARE!
ぐるるるる
GRRRR
DON'T BE LIKE THAT! PLEASE!
TO BE CONTINUED
PERSISTENTLY.

Domestic Girlfriend 8

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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